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WEEKEND**

DECEMBER 22 - 28, 2011

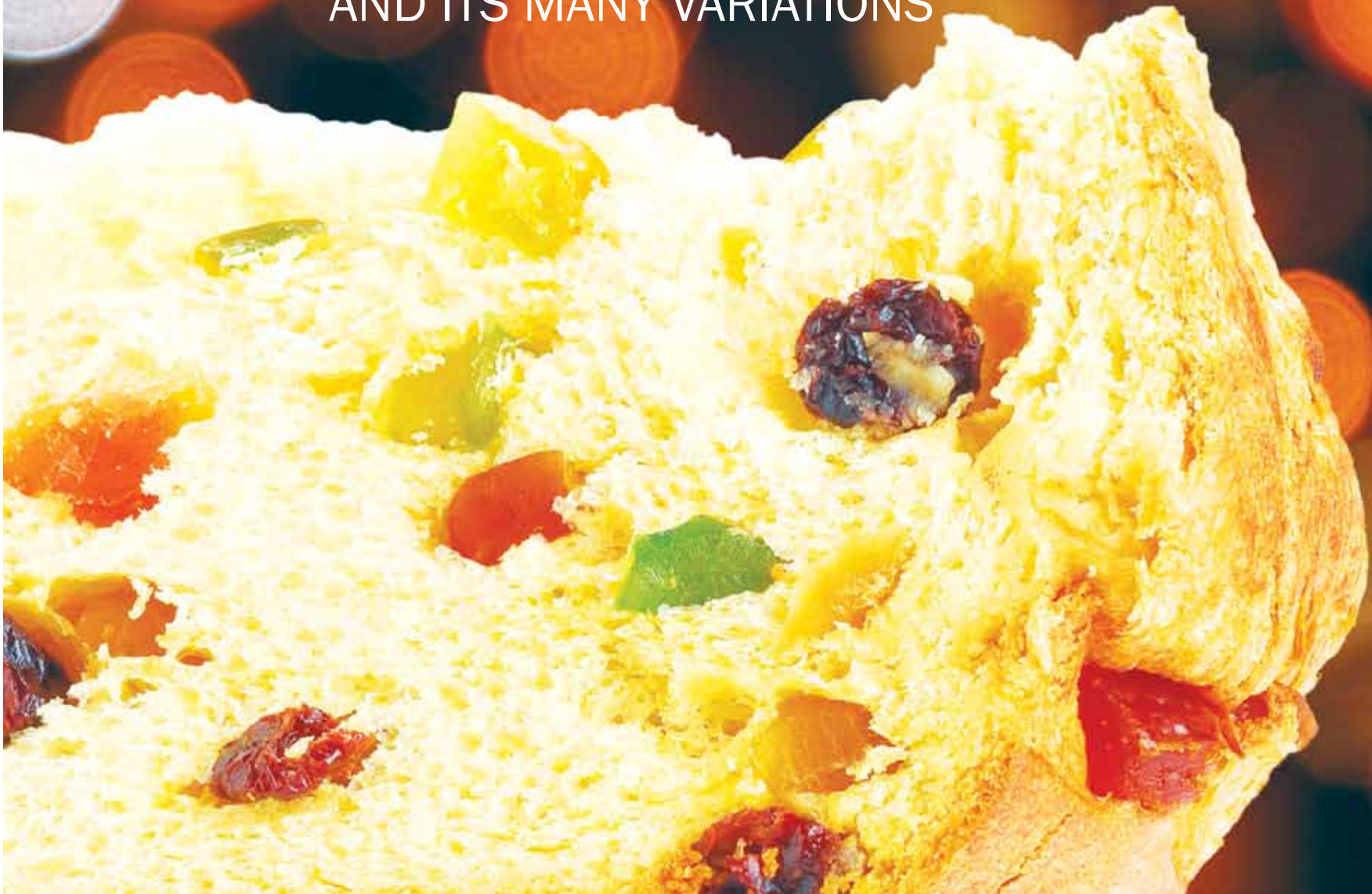
LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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BY FRED BRAMANTE

GRANITE VIEWS

Occupy



The first time I heard about the Occupy Wall Street movement, I was watching morning TV with my Obama-supporter, left-leaning wife. I remarked to her that while “they” looked like a bunch of “nuts,” I actually think that somewhere in their protestations is a real issue. Little did I know how soon the true meaning of this nationwide, in fact worldwide, movement would hit home for me.

Thirty years ago, I was an eighth-grade science teacher when I started the tiny part-time music business (with my life savings of \$600) that was to grow into Daddy’s Junky Music Stores. On Oct. 25 of this year, Daddy’s Junky Music Stores closed its doors. Many wonder how it could have ended so abruptly and come as such a shock. Let me simply say, I thought I had in motion a plan that would move us to a successful future. Call me the eternal optimist; I always put forward the good faith effort and I expect the same from the people I interact with. There are complex details that resulted in the demise of Daddy’s and there remain significant legal issues so I cannot share them at this time.

I thank Hippo for giving me the opportunity to thank my customers for their years of support and to apologize for any inconvenience that some of them are facing. Daddy’s no longer has any employees so my family and my partner are working to tie up as many loose ends on any issues that we have control over.

I keep a monthly planner. At the beginning of the month, I identify my priorities and use a scale of 1-10 to rate the importance of each task. At the beginning of the next month, I review my work and, ever the educator, I grade myself on how well I am doing on each task. For September, a “New Daddy’s Plan” was a 10 in importance. On Oct. 1, I graded myself an “A.” How is it possible that a few weeks later my company would close? Either I was delusional about my performance, or something in our system is very wrong.

With that enormous question on my mind, I suggest to the Occupy folks: clean up your act so you can effectively get your point across, because there are many of us, including a long-time Republican like me, who think that you actually have something fundamental to say.

Fred Bramante is the past chairman and a current member of the New Hampshire State Board of Education.

Good news from Hippo publisher Jody Reese: The unemployment rate continues to edge down; it’s now at 8.2 percent, the lowest level since since January 2010, when the rate hit a high of 10.6 percent. Claims for first-time unemployment benefits also declined to their lowest level since May 2008. For New Hampshire the unemployment rate stayed at 4.9 percent. Holiday sales too have been showing signs of life with spending expected to be up a few percentage points. While we’re not out of the woods yet, most economists now say that the chances of a double-dip recession are remote.

12 Fruitcake

You like fruit, you like cake, so what’s the problem? It’s not the stale old doorstep you thought it was. Local chefs and bakers offer some delightfully cakey panettones and fruity Dresden stollen that will change your image of this Christmas tradition. Plus, we’ve got recipes for fruitcake cookies and chocolate rum fruitcake. Dig in!



Also on the cover: Hit the town for a little **music and comedy** this holiday weekend. See our music listings starting on page 84 and standup comedy events on page 90.

In food, we visit two **new eateries**. On page 58 we take you behind the Copper Door in Bedford, and on page 60 read about PastAmore, serving up big Italian portions in Amherst.

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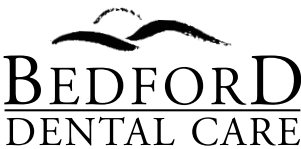
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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **NH has grown less Republican:** Historically a bright red Republican state, New Hampshire has become less Republican since the 1960s. That's according to new research by the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire. "Once upon a time, the rural counties of New Hampshire were among the most Republican in the country. Nowadays, visiting out-of-state reporters are more likely to find Republican primary voters in the densely populated towns of the Granite State's southern tier," said Dante Scala, political science professor at UNH and faculty fellow at the Carsey Institute. "In the past, old-time New Hampshire Republicans frequently complained about the negative effects of Massachusetts voters moving north. Now, one might argue that Interstate 93 has only bolstered the state's Grand Old Party." The Carsey Institute has also published research suggesting the state is becoming more Democratic, with more Democratic voters moving into the state and more Republican voters moving out. From 1960 to 2008, state voters have become less Republican overall, meaning Republican presidential candidates no longer have the advantage they once did in the state's rural counties, according to the Institute. Case in point, President Barack Obama won New Hampshire in 2008. The study also found that Grafton and Merrimack counties have tilted Democratic in recent decades — both were historically Republican counties. On the other hand, Hillsborough and Rockingham counties' percentage of Republican presidential primary voters in the state has grown from 44 percent in 1976 to 55 percent today, the study said. In 1976, one-third of all GOP ballots came from rural counties like Belknap, Carrol, Grafton and Cheshire counties. In 2008, those counties accounted for 25 percent of GOP ballots. "The fate of Mitt Romney, New Gingrich, and the other competitors will largely be decided by voters who live within the environs of the Greater Boston metropolitan area," Scala said. "As such, they might be a harbinger of how Republicans in other suburbs around the country may choose when it is their turn to cast votes." Visit www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu.

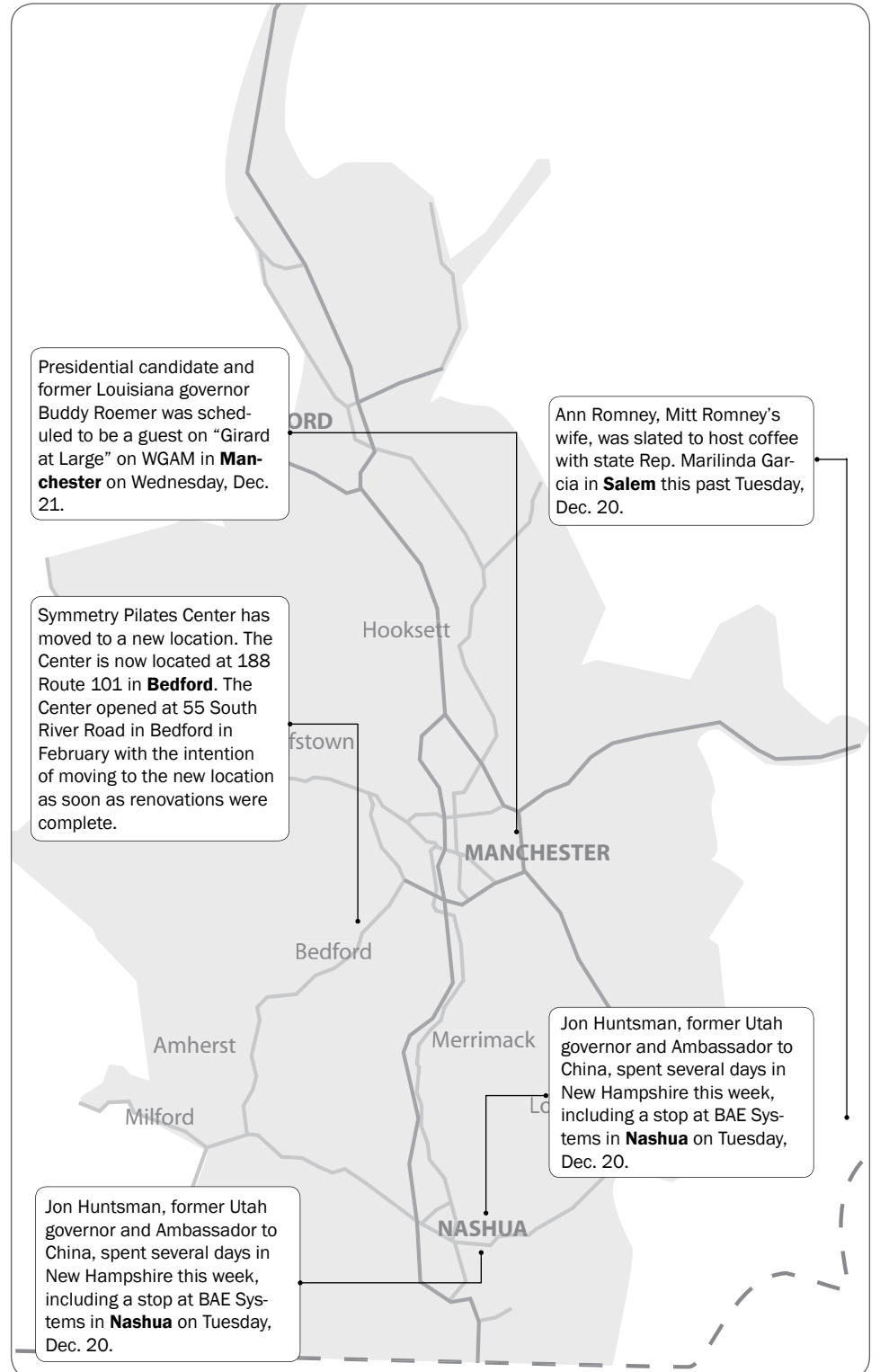
• **Parties declare love/hate for health care law:** With Republicans trying to beat down the massive Affordable Care Act that President Barack Obama signed off on in 2010, Democrats are happy to point out the positives stemming from the law, particularly the increase in the number of young adults who now have access to health care. In New Hampshire, the legislation helped provide 8,300 more young adults with access to health care, according to a press release from the state Democratic party. Nationally, the law helped 2.5 million young adults get access to care. Thanks to the new law, people can stay on their parents' health insurance plans until age 26. "Before the Affordable Care Act, more young Americans lacked health insurance than any other age group — accounting for more than one in five of the uninsured," said Ray Buckley, chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, in a statement. "Going without insurance put the health and finances of thousands of young Granite Staters at risk." But state Republican leaders don't want anything to do with the law. House Speaker William O'Brien and House Majority Leader D.J. Bettencourt praised the three executive councilors who voted to reject a \$333,000 contract, paid for with federal funds, to establish a health insurance exchange to implement the new health care reform law. Earlier this year, the state legislature passed a bill that returned \$666,000 in federal funds that had been designed to help plan for the health care reform law. "ObamaCare is a sea of federal mandates, higher health care costs, huge new expenses to states in new Medicaid outlays and infringements into our liberties," said O'Brien in a statement. "It is bad policy that may well be thrown out by the Supreme Court next year. There is no good reason to waste taxpayer funds on implementing such a destructive scheme that will mean lower quality health care that is also more expensive."

• **Unemployment down:** The employment situation continues to get better in New Hampshire by the numbers. The state Department of Employment Security announced that the statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped from 5.3 percent to 5.2 percent, as the number of employed state residents increased by 3,050, according to a House press release. In November, there were 707,960 residents working, which is the greatest number since December 2008, the release said. The total labor force increased by 2,030, which is a sign discouraged workers are reentering the job market. "It's very encouraging to see that previously timid business owners are now starting to feel stability in the New Hampshire business environment," said House Majority Leader D.J. Bettencourt, R-Salem, in a statement. The unemployment rate in New Hampshire was 5.7 percent in November 2010. The adjusted national rate dropped from 9 percent to 8.6 percent, a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from November 2010.

• **Forbes to speak at business event in Concord:** The House Business Coalition will host businessman Steve Forbes during a business roundtable event on Thursday, Dec. 29. Forbes will speak on behalf of presidential candidate and Texas Gov. Rick Perry. It's the fourth in a series of roundtable events with presidential candidates. The Coalition is a nonpartisan caucus focused on the promotion of private sector job creation and the expansion of the economy, according to a Coalition press release. The goal of the roundtable series is to help employers learn more about candidates' ideas for improving the business climate and economy in the country, said state Rep. Laurie Sanborn in a statement. Sanborn is the chairwoman of the Coalition. The roundtable will take place at the Kimball Jenkins Estate, 266 Main St. in Concord. The event is co-sponsored by the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce and Ian's Wicked Good Donuts. Registration and coffee begins at 8 a.m. The event is free but RSVPs are required. Contact Sanborn at repsanborn@gmail.com. Forbes is chairman and editor-in-chief of Forbes Media, which includes Forbes Magazine and a number of other news websites, including RealClearPolitics.com, RealClearSports.com and RealClearMarkets.com. Forbes ran for the Republican presidential nomination in 1996 and 2000.

• **Fish and Game offers ice fishing classes:** Hop out on the ice, provided it's solid, of course. The state Fish and Game Department is offering courses in basic techniques for fishing year-round, including ice fishing. Courses offer about six hours of hands-on instruction, plus a field trip, according to Fish and Game. Children ages 8 and up, as well as adults, are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a parent or an adult. The state's Let's Go Fishing program is part of the state's Aquatic Resources Education Program. Courses are offered throughout the state by trained volunteer instructors. There are ice fishing courses throughout January and February, including courses in Milford on Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11, and in Manchester on Feb. 24 and Feb. 25. All courses are free. Call 271-3212. Send e-mail to aquatic-ed@wildlife.nh.gov. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/lets_go_fishing_class_schedule.htm for a complete schedule.

• **Guinta back from Afghanistan:** U.S. Rep. Frank Guinta returned last week from an official trip to Afghanistan, where he met with U.S. Army and Marine Corps person-



nel from New Hampshire. Guinta visited Camp Eggers in Kabul and Camp Leatherneck in the Helmand Region, according to a press release from Guinta's office. Guinta was part of a congressional delegation of House Budget Committee members that assessed conditions in Afghanistan and reviewed the progress being made there. The delegation also met with top-ranking U.S. and Afghan military and civilian leaders, the release said. "I can report to Granite Staters that we can all be very proud of the men and women who are serving in Afghanistan," Guinta said in a statement. "They are clearly focused on fulfilling their mission and performing their duties with impressive professionalism to achieve all that is expected of them."

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CORRECTION: In the Dec. 15 Hippo, the story "NH Got Game" incorrectly listed the school for one of the players. Mike Auger, listed in the Top Locals to Watch section, attends New Hampton School.

First in the nation keeps up with the times

In the Internet age, candidates are shaking fewer hands

By Jeff Mucciarone and Adam Coughlin
news@hippopress.com

One of the questions we may be asking years from now is: was 2012 the year retail politics died in New Hampshire? With debates seemingly daily, social networking a part of people's daily lives and so many media outlets, candidates, most notably Newt Gingrich, have been able to rise in the polls without shaking hands and kissing babies.

It is an often used adage: you can't win New Hampshire without paying it respect. You've got to make time for face time. You've got to endure diner crowds and town hall meetings. Jon Huntsman often says New Hampshire is the window in which the rest of the country views the election. For years, the Union Leader was one of the loudest voices echoing that sentiment. But with its endorsement of Gingrich, who rarely visited the state, it embraced new politics. As political analyst Dean Spiliotes has said, all politics are increasingly national.

There is still some hope for the old-fashioned: a new 7 News/Suffolk University poll shows some growth in New Hampshire for former Ambassador to China and former Utah governor Jon Huntsman. Huntsman has relentlessly hit the pavement in the Granite State,

having hosted more than 100 events. But there wasn't much to show for it. This poll has him up four points to a total of 13, which has him behind only Mitt Romney (38 percent) and Gingrich (20 percent).

With just a few weeks to go before the primary, even Gingrich is making appearances in New Hampshire. Last week, he spent time visiting two technology companies (Dyn and Insight Technology) and then engaged in one of the highlights of the campaign: an hour-and-a-half debate/discussion with Huntsman on foreign affairs.

With the thick smell of maple syrup and bacon in the air, Texas Congressman Ron Paul made the rounds at Joey's Diner in Amherst on Wednesday, Dec. 15. He shook patrons' hands, paused to answer questions and posed for photographs — all the while reporters and photographers danced in between tables and booths to catch the action. Paul spent about an hour at the diner, the patrons of which were specifically there to see Paul, courtesy of the Amherst Town Republicans.

"Most people in Congress don't have a strong philosophy," Paul told the diner crowd. "Their philosophy is to get reelected."

Paul, who is very much in contention in Iowa and has remained steady in New Hamp-

shire polling, has spent considerable time in the Granite State. After his visit at Joey's Diner, Paul sprinted to Homestead Grocery and Deli in Amherst, and to downtown Milford to shake hands. Later that day Paul hosted a meet and greet in Manchester, where he took questions as well. And he also hosted a town hall meeting in Derry that night. That's a full day of campaigning. But that's not the type of campaigning that has exemplified this primary in New Hampshire. Huntsman has, Paul has at times, but Gingrich and even Romney to a certain extent haven't put in the face-to-face, hand-shaking time that past presidents have.

Of course only three days after Paul's visit to New Hampshire, there was another debate in Iowa, in which Michele Bachmann forcefully told Gingrich she was a serious candidate, Gingrich referred to himself as "zany" and Rick Perry invoked Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow.

In person, you get to size up candidates as individuals. At debates voters get to compare and contrast. There are big differences between Paul and Huntsman, just as there are differences between Romney and Gingrich.

It is one of these two who may very well be the Republican nominee and it is a decision that will likely be made long after the New Hamp-

shire primary. A primary that may be losing a bit of its bite, no matter how much the state barks.

• **Ron Paul** was slated to be back in New Hampshire earlier this week, with stops in Manchester, Plaistow and Exeter scheduled.

• **Mitt Romney** recently released a campaign ad depicting him taking part in some good, old-fashioned retail politics in Milford. Visit <http://mittromney.com/embed/video/milford-nh>.

• Reports last week indicated that New Hampshire Speaker of the House William O'Brien, R-Mont Vernon, would endorse **Newt Gingrich**.

• State Sen. Ray White, R-Bedford, who recently announced he would not seek reelection in 2012, announced last week he would endorse **Ron Paul**. "Unlike the other candidates, Ron Paul has been singing the same tune for years — going back to his first term in Congress," White said in a statement. "He has understood and tried to warn us for decades about the economic crisis we now face, and he is the only candidate who understands the gravity of the situation."

• **Jon Huntsman** was slated to be in New Hampshire this past weekend through Tuesday, Dec. 20, with stops in Deering, Meredith, Rochester, Exeter, Plaistow, Manchester and Rindge, including several town hall-style meetings.

And the cat came back

The lynx, a native New Hampshire animal, has returned

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

The Canada lynx is back in New Hampshire, and biologists are thrilled.

The big cat is a native Granite Stater, but the lynx had been wiped out in New Hampshire. And now a symbol of New Hampshire's wildness is back. In the past five years or so, the number of confirmed sightings of the cat has increased, as has the number of outdoorsmen spotting the animal's tracks. In a couple places last winter people thought they were seeing more than one set of lynx tracks together — three walking together in one instance, said John Kanter, the non-game program director with the Department of Fish and Game. There have been seven cases since 2006 where lynx tracks were photographed in the

North Country.

"The evidence was mounting," Kanter said.

Fish and Game biologist Will Staats was driving a back road in northern New Hampshire this past spring in an area where lynx tracks had been spotted, and he saw a lynx cross the road. Four lynx were photographed in two locations in Pittsburg on two different dates; though it is unknown whether the individuals were the same on the separate occasions, officials said it was likely they were the same.

A couple of hunters, heading by road into Maine, came across what turned out to be lynx kittens, about four or five months old. The hunters produced a video of their encounter. Up until that point, biologists had acknowledged that yes, lynx were showing up more regularly, but the video verified that not only are the animals here, but they are also reproducing, Kanter said.



Three eartagged Canada lynx kittens in the Great North Woods region of Maine. Photo by James Weliver.

"The stage has been set for the return of some of our missing wildlife," Kanter said. "These animals, anybody who sees a picture, they're just gorgeous-looking animals. They're a

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predator with a lot of stealth to them. This is really some great news.”

The areas where lynx are showing up are areas the state and conservation officials have spent the last 20 years protecting, Kanter said.

“The presence of lynx in New Hampshire demonstrates the effectiveness of the wild-life and habitat work that’s been done in this region over many years. It’s exciting,” Staats said. “We expected the population to expand into the state eventually, and we’ve been seeing signs for a few years that they were at least passing through.”

The species has been on the state endangered species list since it was first established. The early records didn’t distinguish lynx from bobcats in the fur trade. Right on into the 1960s, the lynx was still considered part of New Hampshire’s wild-life. Through the 1970s and 1980s, there were concerted efforts to track lynx. Occasionally, biologists would get what they thought was a good record. In the late ’80s or early ’90s, a driver hit and killed a Canada lynx on Interstate 89. But the animals will wander for many miles out of Canada, Kanter said.

In the case of the cats people are seeing now, they are probably coming from Maine, where lynx populations have been relatively robust during the past 10 years. Maine officials estimate that they have more than 1,000 lynx. In New Hampshire, officials can only say that lynx are here. They are not at a point where they can estimate numbers, Kanter said.

“We’re confident that there are some and that they’ve found each other and that they have kittens, and hopefully, they won’t wander too far,” Kanter said.

“Until now, we’ve considered lynx in New Hampshire to represent animals that were wandering from the larger lynx population that is present in Maine as a result of recent declines in snowshoe hare abundance,” said Anthony Tur, biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in a state press release.

Their name, Canada lynx, suggests they would be found in Canada, which they are, but over the New Hampshire border, lynx would be met with extensive agricultural land, which isn’t an area where biologists would expect to find them. It’s the Maine population that is expanding into New Hampshire, officials said.

“Now the Maine population is definitely interacting [in New Hampshire],” Kanter said, adding that radio-collared animals have shown up in Canada as well. “It’s an international lynx population.”

The state recently received funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to initiate surveys for lynx, Kanter said. Lynx are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The last documented lynx in New Hampshire was a road-killed animal in 1993.

While the thought of a large cat might conjure fear for some, Kanter says there is no negative in having the lynx back. It’s not a threat to people, nor would it negatively impact the state’s environment.

A female lynx weighs about 19 pounds on average, with males averaging about 22 pounds. Males’ weights vary, and they can weigh in excess of 30 pounds. Lynx are about three feet long and are at least twice the size of the average house cat. They have



A Canada lynx kitten being measured in the Great North Woods region of Maine. Photo by James Weliver.

short tails, prominent ear tufts and long “sideburn-style hair,” according to Fish and Game. They are often recognized by their huge, furry paws.

Like any wild animals, lynx should not be approached. The state has gotten more bobcat sightings in recent years, particularly with deeper snows, as animals have turned up in people’s yards.

“The lynx, we think of as very shy,” Kanter said. “And kind of retiring in their reaction to people.”

New Hampshire is the southern end of the lynx’s natural range.

“They possibly would expand south, but only in the higher elevations,” Kanter said. “They were never common south of the White Mountains.”

The future of lynx in this state lies with young forests and snowshoe hare.

“If you want to find lynx, you want to find a lot of snowshoe hare, and they like young forests of balsam fir and spruce,” Kanter said. “The transition to that forest kind of starts north of the Lakes Region on north.”

The presence of the snowshoe hare in the state is a little spottier than it is in Maine. Maine has a particularly good habitat for the hare. Heavy logging and salvage operations left Maine with vast expanses of young, regenerating forests all over northern and western Maine. And it filled up with snowshoe hare.

“And the lynx was there to follow,” Kanter said.

New Hampshire does have less young forest area to work with, but there are good spots for hare, and subsequently lynx, Kanter said.

People might have a vision of the bobcat in their minds, but lynx have a taller appearance because their hind legs are elongated, Kanter said.

“That’s because they’re so well-adapted to moving across deep snow,” Kanter said. “Their body was almost shaped like the snowshoe hare that they chase. Other than that, they’re very similar to a bobcat in weight, though they appear bigger because their coats get so fluffy.”

“We’ve gotten some photographs where people think they’ve got a lynx on a remote camera; the detail that is very telling is that they have a dark tipped tail, and a bobcat has dark on the top of the tail, and white on the bottom,” Kanter said, adding a lynx’s tail can end like the tip of a pencil. Bobcats tend to be a little more spotted in color, with lynx more a uniform gray.

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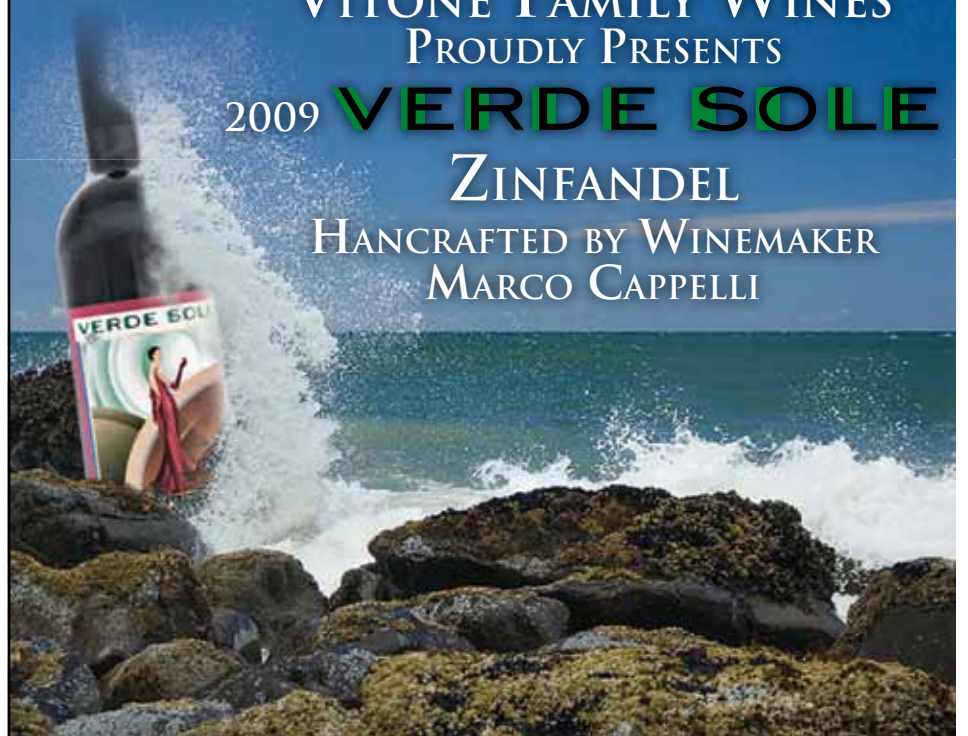
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Black Friday continues

Tilton outlet manager sees spirit of shopping

Eric Proulx oversees the madness and the joy of the holiday shopping season at the Tanger Outlet Center in Tilton. Proulx, who is the general manager at the outlets, said this year it's plenty busy, as usual. Visit www.tangeroutlets.com/tilton for the latest deals and discounts.

Q: *What are you seeing so far this year?*

It started off with a fantastic Black Friday weekend. It was extremely robust compared to a year ago. And things continue to follow suit from a year ago. We're pleased with the results. As [of last Friday, Dec. 16], many retailers were reporting they were pleased with the results, with less than 10 days to go to Christmas.



We're noticing that this holiday season. There are many more people who are buying things for themselves. I think that's because of the fact that we've got some great discounts.

So Black Friday kind of kick-started things?

For us specifically ... we actually begin prepping consumers in early November, distributing 20-percent-off coupons, and then people start to get into the holiday spirit. The Black Friday frenzy sort of continues through Christmas....

Are you noticing any trends?

I can't speak on the part of electronics because we don't sell that, but apparel always does extremely well. There are different fads and fashions each season. Full furs are in, whether that's vests, scarves or the lining of boots. Sweaters and jackets, layering, the soft lines. What's really big is sparkles and gold. ... Those are all among the top fashion items.

How are the Outlets dealing with the economic situation? It seems like things are a little better this year compared to last year or the year before.

I would agree. People are more confident. The National Retail Federation revealed statistics where there was [a projected 3.8-percent national retail sales increase for this holiday shopping season compared to last year]. We're optimistic going into the holiday season. I think our trend is on par to last year. Of course, retailers are providing deeper discounts. You have to be directly competitive. ... Just the better prepared they can be to provide discounts.

I'm guessing you're expecting things to continue to be busy as we approach the holiday?

It will only get stronger. We have one extra weekend this holiday season between Thanksgiving and Christmas.... And not only that, but Christmas is on a Sunday, and Christmas Eve is on a Saturday. So people will be out looking for those last-minute goods, some will be starting and stopping on the same day. It should be merry and bright for all of us.

At this time of year, how do you approach it mentally?

To stay afloat, making sure retailers have appropriate staff levels, that customer service is at an all-time high, that shoppers are well-informed. For us, as a landlord, we're promoting gift cards, so that the returns are just as good prior to the holiday season ... returns in terms of dollars.

And the week after Christmas would probably be pretty busy as well?

Absolutely. It's just as busy. People have returns, whether they're switching sizes or colors, or returning with gift cards....

—Jeff Mucciarone

I don't think we're competing with those people who are shopping online. People still like to feel. They like to touch. They don't like to wait.

So far so good...

Yeah. It's been pretty good. We'd like to see a few flurries to help get people into the spirit. But we'll take it. With 10 days to go the shopping center is extremely busy. People are finishing up shopping. People are scurrying about to find their brands, whether it's for friends, family or co-workers. What's even more helpful, as we're getting closer ... retailers are getting aggressive. ... If you go to the website you can download the holiday deals. Old Navy was offering 30 percent off your entire purchase. ... The Banana Republic factory store and the Gap Outlet, they were doing the same thing.... They're getting very aggressive with sales as we get closer to the holiday.

Online shopping ... how do you deal with that?

I don't think we're competing with those people who are shopping online. People still like to feel. They like to touch. They don't like to wait. We have campaigns and marketing methods.... When they get here, people aren't just shopping for others, they're shopping for themselves.

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QOL

DECEMBER 22, 2011

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Get your X-ray on

A new full body scanner has been installed at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. This scanner, unlike its older counterpart, which has gotten tons of negative attention, only displays a generic image of a body instead of one specific to the individual. Officials told WMUR that people can decline the scan and go through a traditional metal detector and a pat-down.

QOL score: +1 (because the less TSA officials see of QOL's specifics the better)

Comment: *The scanners can detect guns and knives. Wait ... they weren't detecting those things before?*

NH last in protecting kids from tobacco

The New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration wasn't thrilled to see a nationwide study revealing that New Hampshire is tied for last in the nation in funding programs to prevent kids from smoking. It's the third year in a row that the Granite State has provided zero funds for tobacco prevention and cessation programs, according to a national coalition of health care associations, which includes the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and the American Cancer Society. New Hampshire also took a hit in the report, *A Broken Promise to Our Children: The 1998 Tobacco Settlement 13 years later*, because it recently enacted a 10-cent reduction in the state's cigarette tax. Connecticut, Nevada, Ohio and the District of Columbia joined New Hampshire at the bottom. According to the report, 20.8 percent of New Hampshire's high school students are smokers, with an additional 1,700 kids taking up smoking each year.

QOL score: -2

Comment: *"Between its failure to fund tobacco prevention and the cigarette tax reduction, New Hampshire is one of the most disappointing states in the nation when it comes to fighting tobacco use," said Matthew L. Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, in a statement.*

No snow equals no snow fun

The state would typically kick off the snowmobile season on Dec. 15, but without adequate snow cover, the state has been forced to suspend the opening. The unseasonably warm weather so far this month, combined with little snowfall, has left trails without a layer of white stuff. That said, the Bureau of Trails and volunteer clubs are ready for whenever the snow arrives. As of now, though, gates remained closed and logging operations are ongoing. Visit www.nhtrails.org for updates on conditions.

QOL score: +1 (-1 for snowmobilers, snowball fighters and snowman-builders, but +2 for everybody hoping winter holds off)

Comment: *QOL is fairly sure it will ultimately snow, and it even felt like winter, temperature-wise, earlier this week.*

Spelling counts

Massachusetts' transportation officials may be on Santa's naughty list, particularly if Santa is a stickler for accuracy. They recently put up street signs in Haverhill directing drivers to "Plastow," N.H., on Route 125 and "Merrimack," Mass., on Route 110, according to the Boston Globe. The only problem: it is Plaistow, N.H., and Merrimac, Mass. There is, however, a Merrimack, N.H.

QOL score: -1

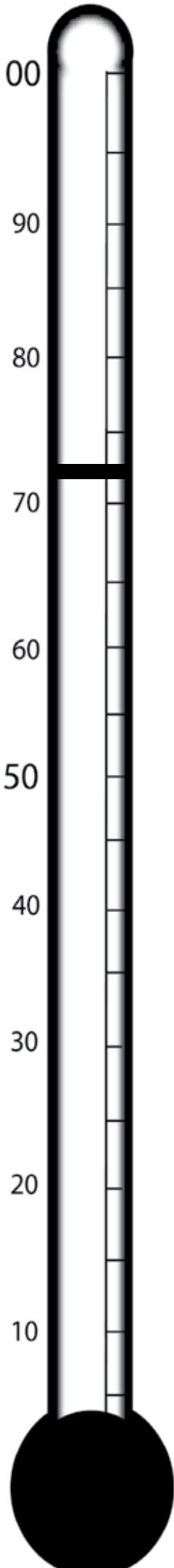
Comment: *The plus side is that a dictionary is an easy holiday gift.*

QOL score: 73

Net change: -1

QOL this week: 72

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DAVE LONG'S HIPPO SPORTS

LONGSHOTS

Not so tiny Tim a big Xmas present to Denver fans



Tebow mania swept through New England last week in the lead up to the Patriots game in Denver on Sunday. It's amazingly the story of the year in the NFL, both because it totally overshadowed the Packers' attempt to be the first team to go undefeated and win a Super Bowl since the 1972 Dolphins, and because somehow a guy taken low in the first round of the 2010 draft had become the talk of the country without doing anything particularly extraordinary on the stat sheet besides the only thing that counts — win, which his team has done in extraordinary fashion since he became the Denver starter.

It's happened because there are a lot of forces at work here, not the least of which is his devout Christianity, which he unabashedly wears on his sleeve. That turns some off, and it turns others on, and both sides are willing to speak up about it. *Saturday Night Live* lampooned it all in a locker room skit that poked fun at Tebow's religious enthusiasm, praised **Tom Brady** and suggested **Bill Belichick** was the devil. *SNL* also probably gave Tebow a little piece of good advice on how to get the Christianity thing out of the conversation when **Jason Sudeikis** playing Jesus said, "You might want to take it down a notch."

But that's a sidebar that just kicks the story up a couple of notches. At the center is that almost every football fan has a definite and entrenched opinion on whether he can play in the NFL. Those against include **Boomer Esiason**, ESPN's **Merrill Hodge** and others who seem to relish saying emphatically there's no way he can do it. And that's the part I don't get, as he seems like a nice kid who takes the criticism in stride. I know in wake of the Tiger Woods saga you have to be careful in guessing what public figures you don't really know are like, but he also appears to be courteous, walking the walk in his desire to help those in distress, and genuine.

So why all the vitriol?

Well, because there's going to be a lot of so-called "experts" who look pretty dumb if he succeeds because they've been bloviating so

long that a guy with his unorthodox approach will never make it. So you hear things like he's got a long release, bad mechanics, the wins are all luck and he can't read defenses — as if, besides **Dan Marino**, that hasn't been the case for every single quarterback eight starts into their career, including the likes of **Terry Bradshaw**, **Peyton Manning** and his boss **John Elway** — where two are in the Hall and the other will be there soon.

That's why I like this story, where I have been on the "yes he can" side since he was winning a national championship and the Heisman Trophy at Florida. It's about closed-minded people who can't look past their nose, or public opinion, to see what someone IS rather than what they AREN'T. The same people who dismissed **Dustin Pedroia** because he was too small and his swing too long to possibly succeed at the highest level, even as he succeeded at every other level with that swing. Or the ones who passed on **Tom Brady** 198 times in the 2000 draft as seven quarterbacks were taken ahead of him. After all, he's a bad athlete, skinny and couldn't even win the job outright as a senior at Michigan. Yet he's about to move by Elway on the TD passes list to be fifth all-time.

That list apparently includes the aforementioned Elway, who now runs Denver's football operation. He's been squarely in the see-what-he-isn't camp since taking over last fall. In fact many believe the Denver brass only started Tebow to let him fail during a lost, rebuilding season to put to rest a building fan uprising that wanted him to play. Funny thing happened — they started winning and in dramatic fashion, as Tebow put up stats that make you say "how?" Which apparently includes Elway, who as yet won't commit to his current QB for next year. Irony when you consider the boss's rookie numbers don't match what Tebow's done in ANY category and he was still able to grow into a great player. So why can't Tebow?

Count me as one who thinks he will — and not to be just good, but a star on par with what Brady is today and Elway was, though with a different game. I see what he IS — a winner — which, unlike throwing mechanics, you can't teach and is the most important ingredient of greatness.

To people who say I'm crazy: let me take

you back 10 years. It was Week 10 in 2001 and the Patriots had just dropped to 5-5 after losing to the vaunted St. Louis Rams 24-17 in a silver-lining loss after the "overmatched" Pats played the NFL's best team tough for 40 minutes. There isn't a person alive then who would have said that three months later the Patriots would come back to beat those same vaunted Rams in the Super Bowl or that Brady, who threw for just 178 yards and 2 picks (less and more than Tebow did against the Pats on Sunday), would turn into a Top 5 quarterback all-time. But they did.

To the people who say that Tebow and Broncos are lucky — you're probably right. But what have you seen happen more, a rock head running back go out of bounds in the final minute to give a team an extra 20 seconds like **Marion Barber** did for them, or anyone keep possession of fumble because it rolls against the helmet of an out-cold receiver to be a dead ball because his feet are out of bounds, like it was for **David Patten**'s against Buffalo in 2001? Or what's a tougher field goal, **Matthew Prater**'s 59-yarder in the mile-high air of Denver, or a 45-yarder off two feet of snow through the driving winds of a blizzard to a goal post he can barely see as **Adam V.** did to send it into OT vs. the Raiders? And don't get me started on the Tuck Rule.

I think that what's happening in Denver right now is very reminiscent of what happened here in the mystical season of 2001, where more drama may lie ahead if it's **Kyle Orton** and the Chiefs they need to beat on the final day to win the AFC West. They're a team with a clutch kicker, led by an emerging defense and a quarterback no one thought could play coming out of college. But Brady turned out to have that knack that all winners have, even as we kept hearing he didn't have the "arm strength" as he dinked and dunked his way to Super Bowl MVP — which seems laughable now.

And that's what all the hubbub about Tebow now will seem like looking back at it in 2021 — if, god willing, we're still around for me to tell you all then "I told you so."

Dave Long can be e-mailed at dlong@hippopress.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long from a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM – The Game 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.

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PEOPLE, PLACES & OTHER STUFF

Gati steps down after 37 years and four state titles

Sports Glossary

Tebow: Henceforth the act identified when despite obvious success a player is dismissed as a prospect because he doesn't fit what prevailing wisdom says a player should be.

Tebow First 9 Starts: Denver was 4-12 in 2010 and 1-4 when he took over. In his first nine starts they were 7-2 when he completed 49% of his passes while throwing 164 yards a game and 6.72 per attempt. He has 11 TD passes, 2 picks and a QB rating of 83.4 when he's also scored 5 TDs and run for 610 yards to give him 2,094 total yards or 233 per game.

John Elway: Denver was 4-12 before he got there and 4-6 in the games he started in his first season. In that year he completed 48% of his passes and threw for 163 yards per game — 5.3 per attempt. He had 7 TD passes and 14 picks and a 54.9 rating. He also ran for 128 yards and 1 touchdown. Total yards: 175 per game.

Tom Brady: The Pats went from 5-11 to 11-5 in a turnaround that started when he replaced Drew Bledsoe. That happened in his second season when in his first 9 games they went 6-3, while he completed 65% of his passes, had 12 TDs — 7 picks — threw for 201 per game and 6.7 per attempt — 86 rating. They also went on to win 9 straight after that and won the Super Bowl.

Steve Young: Had an advantage over Tebow having played a season in the USFL before going to the NFL, so these numbers are from his 2nd season with Tampa Bay, who went 2 and 12 in his starts, and the year before, where he completed 53% of his passes, had 8 TD passes and 13 picks while averaging 163 passing yards per game, 6.3 per attempt with a rating of 65.5. Ran for 425 yards and 5 TDs to give him a 193 total yards average.

Terry Bradshaw: Three-time Super Bowl MVP played in 13 games as a rookie and was 3 and 5 in starts as the Steelers went 5-9 after going 1-13 in 1969. Completed 38.1% of his passes with 6 touchdown passes, 24 interceptions, averaged 125 passing yards and 6.7 yards per attempt and a quarterback rating of 30.4. To give context for how that is, Denver receiver Demaryius Thomas had a 39.1 rating when he didn't complete his only pass attempt on an option play vs. the Patriots.

The Big Story: Well, it was nice while it lasted, which was for 37 years. But it ended early last week when local good guy **Jack Gati** ended his high school football coaching career with the announcement he was stepping down as Salem High football coach. He ends his career with four states titles won (1987, 1989, 1995, 2009) with three different schools and a 221-138 record in stints at Trinity (1978-85), Concord (1986-93) and Salem (1994-2011). And while the announcement did not come as unexpected, there is no question it's a major loss for high school football in New Hampshire.

Sports 101: Who are the only three men to be on a Super Bowl winning team as a player and the head coach?

Hot Ticket: The 49th annual Queen City Invitational Basketball Tournament comes your way from Manchester Memorial High School beginning Monday the 26th and runs through Thursday the 29th. The tourney opens with the afternoon session at 3 p.m. when Exeter takes on Bow, followed by Dover vs. Merrimack. The night session at 6 p.m. has Trinity facing West, followed by Central vs. Memorial.

Do the Math: There were some stellar defensive efforts when the high school basketball season kicked off for most schools Friday — like for Nashua South, Portsmouth and Londonderry. They held Concord, Pembroke and Salem respectively to just three points in one period. The Lancers' effort was especially noteworthy as it helped them erase

a four-point deficit entering the fourth quarter to win 37-34. But top prize goes to Pinkerton for making Timberlane wait to the second quarter to get their first points of the year when the Astros were 63-31 winners.

Media: Local fans will be happy to know that the return of the NBA season also means the return of the Green Machine radio program on WGAM. It's hosted by the world famous **Papoulias** brothers, **George** and **Chris**, and will be on every Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m. through the season with interviews with reporters and beat writers representing teams and cities throughout the league who cover the NBA.

On This Date – Dec. 22: 1944 – Four-time Cy Young winner **Steve Carlton** is born. 1948 – Boy Scout L.A. Dodger first baseman **Steve Garvey** is born. 1959 – NY Rangers goalie **Marcel Paille** wears a customized mask. 1963 – Future two-time winning Super Bowl coach **Tom Flores** passes for 6 touchdowns to lead Oakland to a 52-49 win over the Houston Oilers. 1969 – **Pete Maravich** sets NCAA record by hitting 30 of 31 foul shots. 1974 – **Phil Esposito**, Boston, becomes sixth NHL player to score 500 goals.

Sports 101 Answer: Tom Flores as a player won in Super Bowl IV with KC and twice with Oakland as coach in the '80s. Mike Ditka won as player with Dallas in 1972 and as coach of the ferocious '85 Bears, while Tony Dungy won as a player with the '78 Steelers and with Indy as coach in 2006.

The Numbers

.317 – batting average against new Red Sox reliever **Mark Melancon** off the 461 fastballs he threw in 2011 for the Houston Astros, according to Boston Globe Sox writer Nick Cafardo.

4 – hat trick plus one # of goals scored by Pinkerton sophomore **Brendan Philippon** in leading the Astros to an 8-4 win over Londonderry to open their NHIAA hockey season in style.

5 – states out of 50 in an ESPN.com poll of about 100,000 voters that wanted the Patriots to derail Tebow Mania on Sunday in Denver, the 5

being the 5 New England states.

22 – points scored by **Eli-za Simpson**, to go along with six assists and six steals, when Londonderry kicked off its basketball season with a 75-47 thumping of Salem as **Casey Evans** grabbed 14 rebounds and chipped in with 17 more points.

26 – points scored by **Jack (dis) Mount** as Goffstown followed last year's high scoring script right out of the box with an 83-51 win over Con-Val.

33 – game-high point total for **Joe (Jo) McCarthy** as Bishop Guertin kicked off the defense of its Division I Basketball title

with a 79-69 win over Central.

51 – sensational number of saves made by **Connor Minch** in leading the Memorial hockey team to a 1-0 season-opening win over Central when the Crusaders' **Matthew Tufts** had the game's lone goal.

100 – points scored in **Dwight King's** pro career after assisting on a **Patrick Mullen** goal in the Monarchs' 3-2 win over the Springfield Falcons on Saturday. No. 99 came when they hooked up on the game-winner in a 2-1 win over Portland that pushed the M's back into first place on Wednesday.

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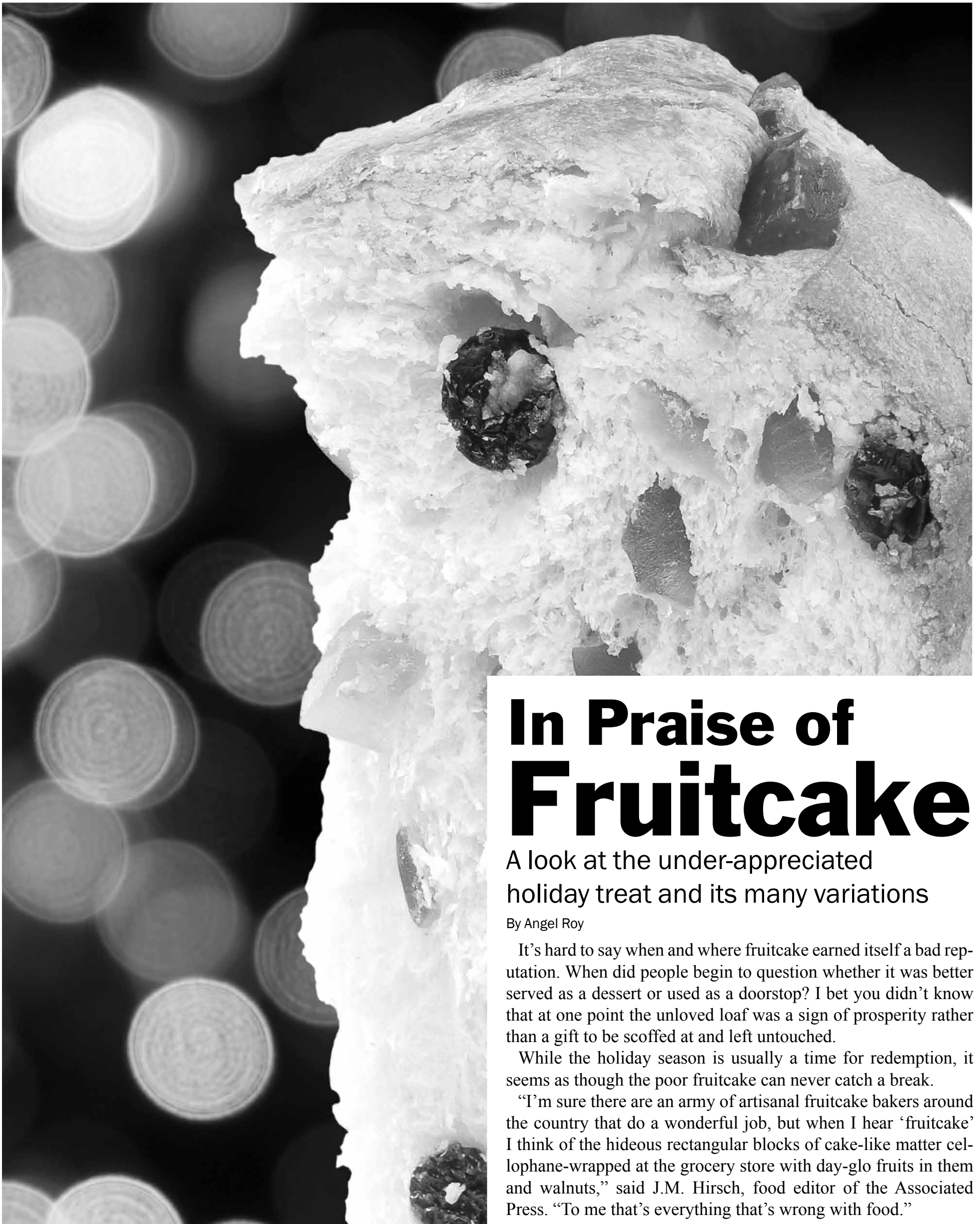
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In Praise of Fruitcake

A look at the under-appreciated holiday treat and its many variations

By Angel Roy

It's hard to say when and where fruitcake earned itself a bad reputation. When did people begin to question whether it was better served as a dessert or used as a doorstop? I bet you didn't know that at one point the unloved loaf was a sign of prosperity rather than a gift to be scoffed at and left untouched.

While the holiday season is usually a time for redemption, it seems as though the poor fruitcake can never catch a break.

"I'm sure there are an army of artisanal fruitcake bakers around the country that do a wonderful job, but when I hear 'fruitcake' I think of the hideous rectangular blocks of cake-like matter cellophane-wrapped at the grocery store with day-glo fruits in them and walnuts," said J.M. Hirsch, food editor of the Associated Press. "To me that's everything that's wrong with food."

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Christmas stollen from Dutch Epicure in Amherst. Angel Roy photo.

The golden years

Before cane sugar was available, people could only sweeten their desserts with apricots, raisins, figs and other fruits of that nature, said Mike Ciola, former owner of Dutch Epicure in Amherst.

“There wasn’t even a lot of that around ... they were highly prized and maybe available to the nobility but not the common man,” he said. “Things weren’t like they were today 500 years ago as far as being able to go to the store to buy things.”

Fruitcake and stollen were so appreciated that they were served only for grand occasions and on holidays; both were also given as gifts. Fruitcake had at one time been a standard wedding cake in some parts of Europe. Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge, requested a multi-tiered one to serve at her wedding to Prince William earlier this year.

Serving fruitcake as a wedding cake became a ritual because, as the heavy pastry was filled with rare and expensive fruits, it signaled prosperity and fertility for the new couple, Ciola said.

“People who don’t understand the background today just go to the store to get stollen or fruitcake and don’t think twice about it,” Ciola said. “Now it’s easy to go get a bag of cane sugar and make something sweet.”

More than just fruit

It is the depth and the complexity of the traditional holiday cake that Isabelle Kyrk appreciates most.

“I would say that the ingredients make a good fruitcake,” she said. “The ones I have tasted that are the best actually, surprisingly, have been the homemade ones that I’ve been sent and the ones that use the most decadent, wholesome ingredients — real butter, dried fruit or well-made candied fruit.”

“Good, honest ingredients that are made with care as opposed to some of the mass-produced cakes made with industrial ingredients — high-fructose corn syrup and fillers,” she said.

Kyrk is one of the lucky ones. She grew up with good fruitcake and therefore was unable to understand how and why a baked good could be so hated by so many. Six

years ago, Kyrk, of Chicago, Ill., decided to take her curiosity to the next level by starting Mondo Fruitcake (mondofruitcake.com), a blog devoted to dissecting both the good (yes, some *are* good) and bad fruitcakes of the world.

“You would actually be surprised how many people *do* like fruitcakes,” Kyrk said.

Kyrk puts fruitcakes into three categories — Southern style, monastery style and “other” fruitcakes — depending on how the ingredients are used. The Southern style cakes are not made with alcohol and most, particularly the ones made in Texas and Georgia, contain a lot of nuts — “The batter is more like a filler that just holds the ingredients together,” Kyrk said.

Monastery style fruitcakes have more batter to them and there is more of an equal ratio of cake, nuts and fruit. The batter is made with alcohol, typically brandy, and the flavors and ingredients are mainly natural. “Other” fruitcakes are the ones Kyrk says she would recommend for people who just aren’t that into fruitcake. These are usually made with non-traditional flavors and ingredients such as the aforementioned dried fruit. “A lot of people think candied fruit is weird and people are trying to make [fruitcake] a little healthier,” she said.

Alison Ladman, owner of The Crust and the Crumb in Canterbury, said the use of dried fruits in fruitcake has become a growing trend as many people are turning away from unnatural food products — food coloring and corn syrup included. Dried cherries, apricots and dates make good additions to the shunned sweet slab.

“Adding cherries, cranberries and some pecans would be delicious,” Ladman said.

Dark fruitcakes are typically made with molasses and are “kind of a cousin” to gingerbread. Light fruitcakes are made with light fruits such as golden raisins and apricots, Ladman said.

“Honey is sometimes used, too, but that’s just based on the recipe,” she added.

Artisanal fruitcakes have emerged from the ovens of many bakers looking to class up the unloved loaf, but such cakes can run up to \$50, Kyrk said.

Kyrk said the fruitcake never stood a

"I'm starting to think maybe tastes have changed ... a lot of people don't like chunks in their cake," she said. "[Fruitcake is] just this complex kind of Old World heavier old cake. I think people's tastes are getting more refined."

Hirsch said just the fact that fruitcake has candied fruit and nuts in it (Hirsch is a firm believer that baked goods shouldn't have nuts in them) earns it two strikes before he has even tasted it.

The fruit used in most fruitcakes is candied by being soaked in a sugar syrup and can also be cooked in the syrup, Ladman said. The commercially produced candied fruit involves a lot of corn syrup and has much of

“Some people really like it,” Ladman said. “Some people are into the bright green cherries and the bright red cherries. For some people that’s what the holidays are all about, those brilliant colors.”

Ladman said the use of alcohol in a fruit-cake recipe could go either way.

“I’ve seen a lot of people skip the alcohol altogether and some kinds that you need to make three weeks in advance and baste with alcohol every other day, which essentially makes them alcohol cakes,” Ladman said. Brandy and rum are the most common boozy fruitcake additions.

Fresh baked fruitcake can be hard to come by, so here are some recipes for making your own.

submitted by Mike Ciola, former owner of Dutch Epicure in Amherst

2½ lbs. walnuts
2½ lbs. red cherries
2½ lbs. green cherries
3 lbs. 4 oz. pineapple
6½ lbs. white grapes
½ ounce vanilla extract
1 pint brandy
1 pint water
2 lbs. 4 oz. sugar
2 lbs. 4 oz. bread flour
1 lb. 12 oz. hi-ratio
shortening
2 lbs. 4 oz. egg
8 oz. milk

Soak walnuts, cherries, pineapple and grapes in vanilla, brandy and water overnight. Cream the sugar, 1 lb. 2 oz. of bread flour and shortening together for five minutes. Mix in the egg, milk and 1 lb. 2 oz. of bread flour, then fold in fruit. Cook for one hour at 325 degrees.

*created by Alison Ladman,
of The Crust and Crumb in
Canterbury*

1 cup sugar
 ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 ½ teaspoon nutmeg
 ½ teaspoon ground cloves
 ½ teaspoon ground allspice
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ½ teaspoon baking soda
 1 egg
 Zest of 1 orange
 ¼ cup orange juice
 1¾ cups all-purpose flour
 ¾ cup candied peel
 ¾ cup chopped dates
 ¾ cup candied cherries
 ¾ cup chopped dried apricots
 ¾ cup chopped toasted

Colored sugars, if desired

Heat the oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine the sugar, butter, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, allspice, salt and baking soda. Beat until light and fluffy. Add the egg and orange zest, then beat to combine. Add the orange juice and half of the flour, then mix, scraping down the bowl as needed to ensure even mixing. Add the remaining flour and mix to thoroughly incorporate. Stir in the candied peel, dates, cherries, apricots and pecans. Working in batches, drop the dough by the tablespoon onto the prepared baking sheet. Sprinkle with colored sugars, if desired. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes. Allow to cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container at room temperature. Makes about 40 cookies.

*created by Alison Ladman,
of The Crust and Crumb in
Canterbury*

Makes one large loaf or two smaller loaves

For the fruit and syrup:

¾ cup dried cherries
 ¾ cup dried cranberries
 ¾ cup chopped dried dates
 ¾ cup chopped dried apricots
 ½ cup spiced rum

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar

For the cake:

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature

1 cup sugar

zest of 1 orange

1 teaspoon vanilla

4 eggs

1½ cups flour
½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup semisweet chocolate chunks
1 cup toasted pistachios, optional

Directions:

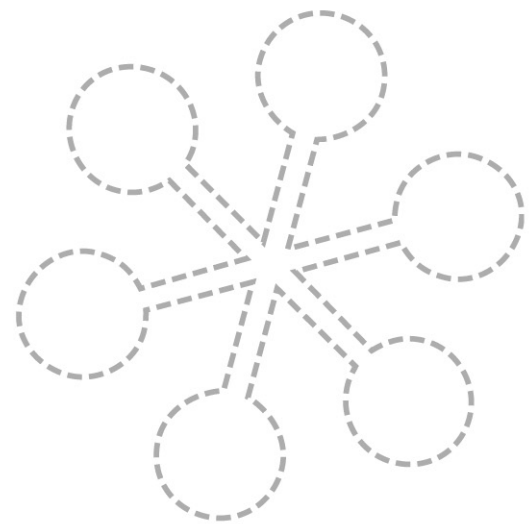
Heat the oven to 350 F. Spray a large loaf pan or two smaller loaf pans with baking spray, or grease the pan with butter and dust with cocoa powder.

In a medium saucepan, combine the cherries, cranberries, dates, apricots, rum, sugar, and ¼ cup water. Bring up to a simmer and then remove from the heat. Allow to cool and then drain, reserving the liquid. Set the liquid aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine the butter, sugar, orange zest, and vanilla. Beat together until the mixture is light and fluffy.

Add the egg yolks and the eggs, one at a time, scraping down the bowl and beating for 1 minute after each addition. Sift the flour, cocoa powder, cinnamon, baking powder, and salt together and add to the butter and egg mixture. Stir just to combine. Mix in the drained fruit mixture, chocolate chunks, and pistachios, if using. Spread the batter in the prepared pan and bake for 55 to 65 minutes or until a wooden skewer inserted in the center comes out clean.

With the cake still in the pan, poke the cake all over with the wooden skewer. Pour the reserved rum syrup all over the cake. Allow to sit for 15 minutes before turning out of the pan to finish cooling.



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“It’s all about personalizing to your taste, using what you like ... making it fit to your family,” Ladman said. “It’s a very versatile cake.”

Stollen goods

Similar to fruitcake in that it is laden with fruit, Dresden Stollen is a rich fruit bread with a marzipan (sweet almond paste) center. Close to 500 loaves of the German and Austrian specialty will be made at Dutch Epicure in Amherst this holiday season.

“It’s become quite popular over the years,” Ciola said. “Over the years we’ve had to make more and more each holiday.”

Hirsch noted that the addition of marzipan really changes the texture of the dough: “It’s not nearly as gummy or sticky sweet [as fruitcake],” he said. “It’s a much more airy dough ... it still has a lot of fruit in it but it doesn’t have the nuts, usually.”

“And they’re usually bathed in powdered sugar, which makes everything better,” he said.

Hirsch finds stollen “slightly less offensive” than fruitcake.

“You can get really bad stollen, too,” Ciola said. “Like fruitcake, it really boils down to the ingredients.”

Stollen is made with rehydrated apricots, white and dark raisins, pineapples and sour cherries, which allow for the bread to maintain its moisture and boast a lengthy shelf life.

“We sell it when it’s six weeks old with a fully clear conscience,” Ciola said. “You can buy it at Thanksgiving and have it for Christmas.” Most stollen recipes also call for rum, brandy, sherry, almond paste, clove and cardamom.

Educating people about how fruitcake should be eaten might help boost the popularity of both, Ciola said.

“It isn’t supposed to be eaten like birthday cake ... you don’t just sit down and eat a big wedge of fruitcake or a big piece of stollen,” Ciola said. Both the cake and stollen should be sliced ¼ to ½ inch thick and enjoyed slowly.

“Stollen should be served all day — with coffee at the start of the day, then in the late morning you can have a second slice, in the afternoon you can have a slice and then you can serve it after dinner,” Ciola said.

Who you callin’ fruitcake?

Panettone is often called a yeasted fruitcake but is more similar to a buttery brioche bread.

“The texture is more like cake than bread,” Ciola said. “The breadcrumbs are like cake crumbs.”

A traditional panettone is made with raisins or currants and dried candied citrus peel.

“The dried candied peel isn’t really as scary as most people think it is,” Ladman said. Some artisan panettone offerings have emerged from Italy — look for cherry, fig and chocolate, and classic varieties at Butter’s Fine Food and Wine in Concord — and a traditional version of the Italian loaf is made with white and dark raisins and apricots at Dutch Epicure.

The panettone is made at Dutch Epicure using only four ounces of water — which Ciola noted is “nothing” — and 12 whole eggs. Two pounds of butter is added for every 2.4 ounces of flour.

“That’s how rich it is,” Ciola said, adding that he will often refuse to butter a slice for customers unfamiliar with the bread but

instead will steer them to jam because so much butter was already added to the dough. A good French toast can also be made with Panettone, he said.

Let them eat cake

Ciola said fruitcake has become such an easy mark that some joke about the same loaf being shuffled around the world because no one will eat it.

“It really is a crime,” he said. “That’s not what fruitcake is all about.”

Fruitcake, Ciola noted, has been bastardized by the cheap fruit that has been added to it over the years. The use of cheap fruit in what was once an honorable cake was an attempt to keep the loaf affordable.

“I think a good fruitcake, personally, is full of dried fruit or nuts,” Ladman said. “A lot of people enjoy it made with candied fruit but at the same time electric colors of the candied fruit turn them off. Like those green cherries. Cherries aren’t supposed to be green.”

Kyrk calls herself a champion of the fruitcake, as she samples four to six fruitcakes annually and pays for most of them with her own money.

“There is no reason to make fun of them. ... It’s a matter of taste really ... don’t knock it,” she said. “If you’re on the edge, try one of the better ones. You might find that you like it.”

Hirsch said he thinks fruitcake has become an urban myth in the sense that it has taken on a life of its own.

“I don’t actually think there are many people that love it ... I think people make it because it is ingrained in the American holiday tradition as something that is bad,” Hirsch said. “Much like overeating at Thanksgiving and putting marshmallows in sweet potatoes.”

“I think that with fruitcake it’s ingrained in our notion of what celebrating the Christmas holiday is as much as leaving cookies out for Santa Claus and drinking eggnog,” he said.

Where to find fruitcake

A quick search for fruitcakes in the Granite State left us empty-handed but you can order blogger Isabelle Kyrk’s favorite fruitcakes from these websites:

- georgiafruitcakecompany.com
- gethsemanifarms.org
- robertlambert.com
- yahoocake.com

And we did find a few bakeries and specialty shops at which panettone and stollen can be found.

Christmas stollen is available:

- Dutch Epicure Bakery, 141 State Route 101A, Amherst, 879-9400, dutchepicurebakery.com
- German John’s Bakery, 5 W. Main St., Hillsborough, 464-5079, germanjohnsbakery.net
- The Good Loaf, 75 Mont Vernon Road, Milford, 673-1500, thegoodloaf.com
- Harvey’s Bakery, 376 Central Ave., Dover, 742-6029, harveysbakery.com

Fresh panettone is also available at Dutch Epicure in Amherst and Dancing Lion Chocolate (917 Elm St. in Manchester, 625-4043, www.dancinglion.us). Call for more information about availability. Imported panettone from Italy is available during the holidays at Butter’s Fine Food and Wine, 70 N. Main St. in Concord, 225-5995, www.buttersfinefood.com.

Know of a bakery or specialty shop that makes or sells fruitcake, stollen or panettone? Let us know at food@hippopress.com.

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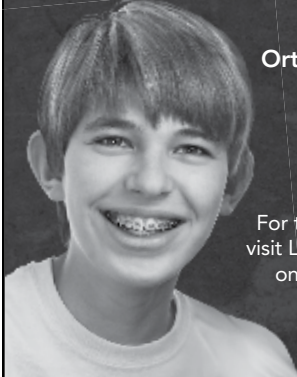
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EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 22 - 28, 2011, AND BEYOND



Monday, Dec. 26

If you didn't get a chance to head to Portsmouth during the Candlelight Stroll this season you can still see the holidays through history this week at the Strawberry Banke Museum in downtown Portsmouth, today through Friday, Dec. 30, during the Holiday House Guided Tours. The tours, which run hourly from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (the final tour starts at 2 p.m.), will feature a handful of the Strawberry Banke homes still decorated for the season to show the way Christmas was celebrated in Portsmouth from the 1780s through the 1940s (or not celebrated, as the house representing the 1780s will show a time that predates holiday celebration in New England). Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 for children ages 5 to 17; children under 5 get in for free). Call 433-1100 or go to www.strawberrybanke.org.



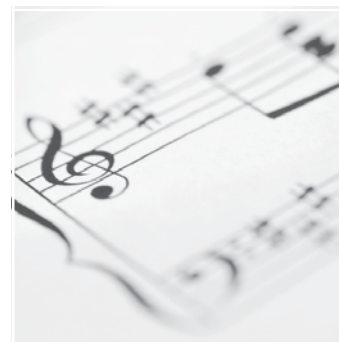
Thursday, Dec. 22

Finish up your last-minute gift shopping at the Downtown Manchester Holiday Market today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Brady Sullivan Plaza Mall, 1000 Elm St. in downtown Manchester. Artisan crafts, locally made food items, jewelry, home goods and more will be on sale. See intownmanchester.com or call 645-6285 for more.



Saturday, Dec. 24

Hit the dance floor on Christmas Eve at an open house at the Queen City Ballroom (21 Dow St. on the second floor in Manchester, 622-1500, www.queencityballroomnh.com) tonight from 6 to 9 p.m. Singles and couples and dancers of all levels (including beginner) are welcome at the event, which will include hot mulled cider and light snacks.



Saturday, Dec. 24

Milford area churches will join together tonight from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Milford Oval in downtown Milford to hold an open-air caroling event. Light of the World Christian Church, Burns Hill Christian Fellowship and New Hope Church will participate in the event, which includes a church service and the carols. Hot drinks and refreshments will be served, according to a press release. E-mail prlwc@gmail.com.



Tuesday, Dec. 27

Get a dose of New Hampshire history. Part I of "Icons of History: Objects that Define New Hampshire" will be on display at the New Hampshire Historical Society Museum, 6 Eagle Square in Concord, through Saturday, Dec. 31. The exhibit is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (The museum is also open on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.) Admission costs \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$3 for children ages 6 to 18 (the family maximum is \$17). Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688. Above, New Hampshire State House Eagle Carved by Leonard Morse (1793-1884), Boston, Massachusetts, 1818. Photo courtesy the New Hampshire Historical society.

Free: An uplifting tale (with sharks)

The Concord Public Library, 45 Green St. in Concord, 230-8670, concordnh.gov, will screen *Soul Surfer* on Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 1 p.m. The movie, which is rated PG and stars Dennis Quaid and AnnaSophia Robb, is based on the true story of Bethany Hamilton, a competitive surfer who lost an arm in a shark attack.

Cheap: Good eats in Concord

Mark Sunday, Jan. 22, through Sunday, Jan. 29, on your calendar as a week for Concord Dines Out 2012, the city's restaurant week. Participating restaurants will offer a \$10 fixed-price lunch and/or a \$20 fixed-price dinner. Check back at www.concordnhchamber.com for participating restaurants.

Splurge: Political chuckles

After enduring the constant campaigning of the New Hampshire primary you might be ready for a good laugh at the politicians' expense. Ten days after you vote, head to the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester to see The Capitol Steps, which was founded by Capitol Hill staffers, perform their music and comedy at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$38.50 (\$34.50 for seniors and Saint Anselm staff and alumni, \$27.50 for university students and children under 14; \$6 for Saint Anselm students). See www.anselm.edu/dana.

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Phyzgig fizzes at Pontine

Small seacoast theater welcomes vaudeville for holidays

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Vaudeville is alive and well and for the fourth year will return for a week of special holiday shows on the seacoast.

Phyzgig South, which is the southern migration of the famed Phyzgig Festival of Portland, Maine, will be held Monday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 30, at 2 p.m. at the Pontine Theatre in Portsmouth. The festival, which began in Maine in 1997, celebrates acts of new vaudeville, which includes magicians, acrobats, jugglers and clowns.

These specialties are near and dear to the hearts of Pontine's co-founders, Marguerite Mathews and Greg Gathers. In the 1970s, Mathews studied in Paris and met many performers. While their careers were vastly different they all held an appreciation for vaudeville.

Families appreciate the afternoon performances of the shows because they offer a perfect post-holiday event.

"We usually see big family groups with aunts and uncles, grandparents and out-of-town relatives," Mathews said. "It is a fun thing to anchor your afternoon around."

She said the shows are popular because the kids are so tickled by it all and their excitement rubs off on their parents. The performers at Phyzgig are also masters of street theater, which means they're great at interacting and often bring kids up on stage. Since the Pontine is small, about 70 seats, it creates an intimate feel, almost like a European circus. Performers stay after the shows to mingle with the audience.

"These performers all have real skill," Mathews said. "They have put the hours in. This is an easy way to spend an hour and a half."

Mathews said they held 8 p.m. performances the first year

but those weren't heavily attended. She learned that people enjoyed the afternoon shows. These shows also work better for the performers, who are coming down from the Maine festival whenever they have free time. It gives them a chance for extra performances while spreading the art form in New Hampshire.

Mathews said she relies heavily on friend and fellow performer Michael Trautman to arrange the talent that comes down. Since they've been doing this for several years, they know many of the performers. There is a familial feel to the whole thing, as performers often drive down together in the same cars (naturally, the clowns are heavily sought after for rides).

Some of these performers are Sam Kilbourn and Lenny Zarccone, whose mime, comedy, acrobatics and improvisation is layered with music, song and juggling; John and Rebecca Higby, master yo-yo artists; Randy Judkins, who is a clown, and magician Phyl Smith.

All of these performers have international careers, as new vaudeville is even more popular in Asia and Europe.

Their arrival at the Pontine provides a change of pace for Mathews and Gathers. During the shows, Gathers handles all of the lighting and sound while Mathews works the front of the house.

"It's a nice break and since we don't have to perform ourselves we can enjoy the show and visit with old friends," Mathews said.

"This is the season to get in touch with your childlike wonder," Mathews said. "If you bring the kids you can watch the joy on their faces. Michael Trautman is a master of ping pong balls. They come from everywhere: out of his ears, his mouth, his sleeves. When this happens the kids are laughing hysterically."



John and Rebecca Higby. Courtesy photo.

Phyzgig South Festival

When: Monday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 30, at 2 p.m.

Where: Pontine Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, pontine.org, 436-6660

Tickets: Cost \$15

20 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

22 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

26 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

THEATER LISTINGS

- **The Acting Loft**
670 North Commercial Street,
Manchester in the Jefferson Mill
Building, 666-5999, actingloft.org
- **Actorsingers**
219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691,
actorsingers.org
- **Adams Memorial
Opera House**
29 W. Broadway, Derry,
437-0505, derryarts.org
- **Amato Family Center for the
Performing Arts at Souhegan
Valley Boys & Girls Club**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford,
672-1002 ext. 2, svbgc.com
- **Andy's Summer Playhouse**
Wilton, 654-2613,
andyssummerplayhouse.org
- **Anselmian Abbey Players**
Dana Center, 641-7700
- **Bedford Off Broadway**
Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, 557-
1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com
- **Bedford Town Hall**
70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford
- **Bedford Youth
Performing Company**
155 Route 101, Bedford,
www.bypc.org, 472-3894.
- **Belle Voci**
bellevoci.org, 848-7986
- **Capitol Center for the Arts**
44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111,
ccanh.com
- **Concord Chorale**
224-0770,
concordchorale.org

- **Concord City Auditorium**
2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793,
www.theaudi.org
- **Concord Community Players**
224-4905, communityplayersof
concord.org
- **The Dana Center**
100 Saint Anselm Drive,
Manchester, 641-7700,
anselm.edu
- **The Hampstead Theatre**
1355 Suncook Valley Hwy., Ctr.
Barnstead, 1-800-619-5302,
www.hampsteadstage.org
- **The Majestic Theatre**
281 Cartier St., Manchester,
669-7469, majestictheatre.net
- **Manchester Community
Music School**
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mcmusicschool.org
- **Manchester Community
Theatre and Second Stage**
Professional Co.
698 Beech St., Manchester,
627-8787
- **Milford Area Players**
673-2258, milfordareaplayers.org
- **Muchachos Drum
& Bugle Corps**
PO Box 5197, Manchester,
674-7650, www.muchachos.org
- **Music and Drama
Company (MADCo.)**
Londonderry, madco.org
- **My Act**
myact.org, 429-3950
- **Nashua Theatre Guild**
PO Box 137, Nashua,

- 03061, 320-2530
nashuatheatreguild.org
- **New Thalian Players**
newthalianplayers.org, 666-6466
- **Nashua Community
College Performing
Arts Club (PAC)**
505 Amherst St., Nashua,
428-3544
- **The Palace Theatre**
80 Hanover St., Manchester,
668-5588, palacetheatre.org
- **Peacock Players**
14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000,
peacockplayers.org
- **Pittsfield Players**
6 Depot St., Pittsfield, 435-8852,
pittsfieldplayers.com
- **Profile Chorus**
profilechorus.org
- **School of Theater Arts
at The Amato Center for
Performing Arts**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford,
672-1002 ext. 20
- **Seacoast Repertory Theatre**
125 Bow St., Portsmouth,
433-4472
- **SNHU Drama Club**
2500 North River Rd., Hooksett
- **Stagecoach Productions**
7 Bayberry Way, Mont Vernon,
672-9664 stagecoachproductions.org
- **Stage One Productions**
**Dinner Theatre at the
Chateau Restaurant**
201 Hanover St., Manchester
669-5511, stageoneprod.com
- **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be

performed through Dec. 24 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Show times are 2, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$24-\$35. Visit seacoastrep.org or call 433-4472.

- **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed through Dec. 23 at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Shows are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays, at 3 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. There are also 7 p.m. shows on Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23. Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123.

- **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m., Fri., Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m., at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15-\$45. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

- **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23, at 10 a.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$16. Tickets cost \$6. Call 335-1992 or visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

- **PHYZZIG SOUTH** will be held Dec. 26-Dec. 30 at 2 p.m. at the West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$15. Visit pontine.org.

- **ANNUAL WINTER GALA** will be held on Thurs., Dec. 29, 7:30-10 p.m. at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Visit andysummerplayhouse.org or e-mail info@andysummerplayhouse.org.

On stage



Follow the bread crumb trail

The Peterborough Players will broadcast The Met: Live in HD production of *Hansel and Gretel* on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 1 p.m. The show is based on

the Grimm brothers' fairy tale about a young brother and sister who must outwit an old witch who wants to eat them. While the story came from Germany, the songs are sung in English. The opera was written by Engelbert Humperdinck and stars Alice Coote and Christine Schafer, and Philip Langridge plays the witch. It was first shown on HD in 2008. Tickets cost \$12.50. Visit peterboroughplayers.org or call 924-7585. *Hansel and Gretel*. Courtesy photo.

- **AMY BEACH STORIES** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Hillsboro Deering High School, 12 Hillcat Dr., Hillsborough. Admission by donation. Call 568-5102 or e-mail dunn.t@comcast.net.
- **HANSEL AND GRETEL** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Thurs., Dec. 29, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$12.50. Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.
- **BY REQUEST 3** will be performed on Sun., Jan. 1, at 7 p.m. at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St.,

Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$20. Call 433-4472 or visit seacoastrep.org.

- **THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE** will be performed Jan. 5 through Jan. 29 at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass. Tickets begin at \$24. Visit merrimackrep.org or call 978-654-4678.

- **TWELFTH NIGHT** will be performed Jan. 6-Jan. 22, at the NH Theatre Project, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$24 (\$18 for seniors and students). Call 431-6644 or e-mail info@nhtheatreproject.org.
- **MAMMA MIA!** will be performed on Tues., Jan. 10, and Wed., Jan. 11,

Curtain Calls



A scene from *Metropolis*. Courtesy photo.

• **Friends win:** The Friends of the Concord City Auditorium, a group that helps run the famous theater in Concord, has been awarded the 2011 Spirit of New Hampshire Volunteer Service Award by Governor John Lynch and VolunteerNH. The all-volunteer organization has raised and invested more than \$1,000,000 in upgrades to the theater over the last 20 years, according to information provided by The Friends. That isn't the only good news for the Friends. The group has received a \$500 grant from the Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation in support of the 2012 Page to Stage program, which encourages playwrights to create new works. These workshops and productions will take place in March. Visit concordcityauditorium.org.

• **Changes at MCMS:** It isn't quite the new year, but the Manches-

ter Community Music School, 2291 Elm St., Manchester, is already starting its makeover. The music school has unveiled a new, sleeker website, www.mcmscommunity.org. That isn't the only change at the school. It has also released a new 2012 winter/spring course catalog, which includes a new ukulele class for adults. Call 644-4548.

• **Palace gets grant:** The folks at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, must be feeling pretty good. The theater has just received a \$14,000 grant from the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation. The money will go toward a new lighting console, which will operate all the stage lights at the theater and should improve the technical capabilities and the quality, preventing disruptions during shows. Visit palacetheatre.org.

• **Film comes to life:** Fritz Lang's 1927 film *Metropolis* is set in a futuristic city, which many critics say influenced science-fiction films that came after it. The film was originally about 90 minutes long but in 2008, in an archive in Argentina, a half-hour of additional footage was discovered. This footage, along with footage discovered in other archives, was added to a re-mastered version of the film, which will be shown at Red River Theatres, 11 South Main St., Concord, on New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31, at 7 p.m. Music for the movie will be performed live by Jeff Rapsis, who provides live silent film soundtracks throughout New England. Tickets cost \$15. Call 224-4600 or visit redrivertheatres.org. —Adam Coughlin

On stage



Preparing for the summer

Andy's Summer Playhouse, which brings the joy of theater to hundreds of kids, will be hosting its annual winter gala on

Thursday, Dec. 29, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Amato Theatre, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. An optional catered dinner begins at 6 p.m. The night will include entertainment as well as the unveiling of the summer lineup. Last year's show had great diversity, including *The Lost World*, which was a big hit. "We couldn't have asked for a better season," said Artistic Director DJ Potter in a press release. "Every year we are growing and fine-tuning our process." This will be the 42nd season of Andy's. Visit andyssummerplayhouse.org or call 493-4299. Evelyn Mead, Raven Bartlett, Kassie Dumont and Lucas Willette. Courtesy photo.

to \$38.50. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.

• **THE INTERGALACTIC NEMESIS** will be performed on Fri., Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost \$25, \$33 and \$45. Call 225-1111 or visit ccanh.com.

• **THE ENCHANTED ISLAND** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., Jan. 21, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **DRIVING MISS DAISY** will be performed on Thurs., Jan. 26, Fri., Jan. 27, and Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 28, and Sun., Jan. 29, at 2 p.m. at 14 Court St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students). Call 320-2530 or visit nashuatheatre-guild.org.

• **LOST IN YONKERS** Dinner theater will be held Jan. 27-Jan. 29 at the Chateau Function Facility, 201 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• **ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL** will be performed on Fri., Jan. 27, and Sat., Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Amato Theatre, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Visit svbge.org or call 465-3456.

• **THE LITTLE FARM SHOW** NACL Theatre will perform Jan. 27-Jan.29 at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 4 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets

cost \$24. Visit pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• **ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL** will be held on Thurs., Feb. 2, Fri., Feb. 3, and Sat., Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost \$6-\$8. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.

• **RIGOLETTO** will be performed on Mon., Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **TRAVELING LIGHT** National Theatre of London HD Broadcast will be held on Thurs., Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$27.50 (\$15 for ages 18 and under). Call 436-2400 or visit themusichall.org.

• **THE PHILADELPHIA STORY** will be performed on Fri., Feb. 10, and Sat., Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Visit communityplayersofconcord.org.

• **GOTTERDAMMERUNG** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., Feb. 11 at noon at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **SUITEHEARTS** Dinner theater will be held Feb. 24-Feb. 26 at the Chateau Function Facility, 201 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• **ERNANI** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., Feb. 25, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** National Theatre broadcast on Sat., March 3, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** National Theatre broadcast on Sat., March 3, at 1 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$27.50 (\$15 for ages 18 and under). Call 436-2400 or visit themusichall.org.

• **THE MATH MANIAC SHOW WITH MAX MILLIONS** will be performed on Tues., March 6, 2012, at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Call 433-3100 ext. 6013 or visit themusichall.org.

• **THE NINE QUESTIONS & MILDRED TAKEN CRAZY** Mud Time Theatre will perform March 9- March 11 at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 4 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$24. Visit pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• **THE IRISH RENAISSANCE IN DRAMA** New Art Theatre will perform on Thurs., March 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost \$6-\$27.50. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.

• **IRISH CEILI FESTIVAL** will be held on Fri., March 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester.

Tickets cost \$6-\$32.50. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.

• **OKLAHOMA!** will be performed on Fri., March 23, Sat., March 24, Fri., March 30, and Sat., March 31, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost \$6-\$14. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu.

• **IMAGINOCEAN** will be performed on Wed., March 28, 2012 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Call 433-3100 ext. 6013 or visit themusichall.org.

• **TOMFOOLERY** Dinner theater will be held March 30-April 1 at the Chateau Function Facility, 201 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• **SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER** National Theatre of London HD Broadcast will be held on Sat., March 31, at 1 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$27.50 (\$15 for ages 18 and under). Call 436-2400 or visit themusichall.org.

• **THE COLOR OF JUSTICE** will be performed on Tues., April 3, 2012 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Call 433-3100 ext. 6013 or visit themusichall.org.

• **MANON** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., April 7, at noon at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **DREAMING AGAIN** will be performed April 13-April 15 at the NH Theatre Project, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$24 (\$18 for seniors and students). Call 431-6644 or e-mail info@nhtheatreproject.org.

• **LA TRAVIATA** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., April 14, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **ELISA MONTE** Contemporary dance company will perform on Fri., April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost \$6-\$32.50. Call 641-7700 or visit elisamontedance.org.

• **AN AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE** Dinner theater will be held April 27-April 29 at the Chateau Function Facility, 201 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• **CAP'N SIMEON'S STORE** & other stories Pontine Theatre will perform April 27-April 29 at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 4 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$24. Visit pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• **SKIPPYJON JONES** will be performed on Tues., May 1, 2012 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Call 433-3100 ext. 6013 or visit themusichall.org.

• **THE MOUSETRAP** will be performed Fri., May 4, and Sat., May 5, at 8 p.m. and Sun., May 6, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Visit communityplayersofconcord.org.

• **ANTIGONE** will be performed May 18-May 27 at the NH Theatre Project, 959 Islington St.,

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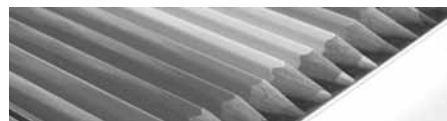
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LOCAL COLOR

• **Generous donation:** This is the time of year for generous deeds. But Thomas Adams has taken it to another level. The former executive director of the Manchester Education Association has donated to the New Hampshire Institute of Art a collection of photographs that spans decades and includes original prints by some of the world's best photographers. The collection includes nearly 300 photos from artists such as Annie Leibovitz, George Daniell, Ralph Gibson, Todd Webb, and Rolf Koppel. Adams, a photographer himself, began the collection in the 1990s and it has been appraised at \$376,000. The gift was announced on Dec. 8 in the new Adams Center for Photographic Research and Study, which is located in Fuller Hall. This center, according to information provided by the institute, will be used for teaching, video presentations and studying Adams' donated prints. Of the gift, Adams said that photos were meant to be accessible and viewed and that they fit in better at the institute than at a museum. In the mid-2000s, Adams enrolled at the New Hampshire Institute of Art. Visit nhia.edu.

• **Sharon Arts gets grant:** 'Tis the season. The Sharon Arts Center has received a \$6,200

grant from the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation that will go toward upgrading their digital lab. Specifically, the arts center will now get drawing tablets for each computer workstation, upgrade to software to the newest Adobe creative suite, and perform hardware upgrades. The Samuel P. Hunt Foundation was founded in 1951 and gives grants to New Hampshire-based nonprofits. Call 924-7256 or visit sharonarts.org.

• **Calling all art:** The Gallery at 100 Market St. in Portsmouth wants all regional and local artists to get nostalgic. It is requesting submissions for its new show, whose theme is: "Sweet & Sentimental Thoughtful Delights." Such a theme has plenty of room for interpretation and that is exactly what the gallery is looking for. The deadline is Monday, Jan. 9, at noon. All accepted works must be dropped off on Jan. 14 and be picked up on April 14. There is no entry fee to participate and all works will be insured. The gallery will not take any percentage of sales. As the gallery is a public space, no nude figures will be accepted. Either e-mail your prospectus to maskmakernh@gmail.com or write to Attn: Michael J. Simchik, 100 Market Group, Ltd., PO Box 1267, Portsmouth, NH 03802. —Adam Coughlin

Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$24 (\$18 for seniors and students). Call 431-6644 or e-mail info@nhtheatreproject.org.

• **PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ** The Music of Irving Berlin. Dinner theater will be held May 18-May 20 at the Chateau Function Facility, 201 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

Auditions/open calls

• **I REMEMBER MAMA** Auditions will be held on Tues., Dec. 27, and Wed., Dec. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Garrison Players Arts Center, Route 4 in Rollinsford. Roles for 13 women and nine men, all of various ages. Visit garrisonplayers.org or call 516-4919.

• **ANNE OF GREEN GABLES, THE MUSICAL** The audition will be held Sat., Jan. 28, and Sun., Jan. 29, 1-4 p.m. at the Amato Theatre, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Visit svbge.org or call 465-3456.

• **CALLING ALL PLAYWRIGHTS** The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, invites playwrights to submit plays for 2012 season and the Late Night Summer Series. E-mail scripts to djmrlo@aol.com or visit playersring.org.

Workshops

• **ACTING FOR THE CAMERA** classes at Whitebridge Farm Productions (3 locations), 744-3652, whitebridgefarmproductions.com. Year-round six-week sessions are available for this acting workshop, taught by New England professionals. After successful completion, participants will be invited to enroll in "The Screen Test" workshop with Academy Award winner Ernest Thompson. Upcoming seminars are at three locations in NH: Common Man Inn, 231 Main St., Plymouth; Kimball Jenkins Estate, 266 N. Main St., Concord; NH Philharmonic (across from the Palace Theatre), 83 Hanover St., Manchester. Call Lori for dates, or e-mail at info@whitebridgefarmproductions.com.

• **COMMUNITY DRUMMING**

will be held on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:45-5:45 p.m. at the Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester. Class costs \$15. Call 647-0622 or e-mail thevillagedrum@aol.com.

• **PLAYREADING CIRCLE** most second Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, rogerslibrary.org, 886-6030.

Classes for kids

• **YOUTH THEATRE CAMP** Hillcat Community Theatre will host a theater camp Dec. 27 through Dec. 30 for kids ages eight to eighteen. Hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 27-Dec. 29 and 4-8 p.m. on Dec. 30. Costs \$30 for Hillsboro, Deering or Washington kids. Based around the music of Amy Beach. Call 568-5102 or visit hdsd.org.

• **RIVERBEND SCHOOL OF THEATER ARTS** Winter classes will be held at the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, svbge.org, 465-3456. Classes are: Costume design and sewing, ages 11-18, Jan. 19-March 15, Thursdays, 4:30-6 p.m.; Movement for actors, ages 10-18, Jan. 21-March 24, Saturdays, 10-11 a.m.; Tap, ages 12-18, Jan. 21-March 24, Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon; Vocal Workshop, ages 10-13, Jan. 17-March 13, Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Vocal Audition, ages 14-18, Jan. 19-March 15, Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

• **THE ACTING LOFT** (516 Pine St., Manchester, 666-5999, actingloft.org) offers acting classes for kids (age 8-12), teens and adults. Learn technique, improvisation, stage combat, dance and more. Most classes cost \$165.

• **CLASSES FOR KIDS** will be held at the Leddy Center, 38C Ladd's Lane, Epping, leddycenter.org. Classes include: Let's Get Acting for kids 9-16 on Mondays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Advanced Musical Theatre for ages 9-16 on Wednesdays, 3:40-4:30 p.m.; Private lessons in guitar, voice and piano on Mondays

and Thursdays and brass and woodwind instruments on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

• **THE DRAMA HOUSE** A theatrical workshop for ages 13-17. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Springfield College, 500 Commercial St., Manchester. Call Robert Santiago at 703-9091 or visit latinosonthemove.com.

• **KIDS' THEATER CLASSES** offered by the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley, at Riverbend School of Theater Arts, Milford. Visit svbge.org to register

• **LEDDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS** (38 Ladd's Lane, Epping, leddycenter.org, 679-2781) offers classes for children starting at age 4. Classes include musical theater (for kids through 15) as well as classes for homeschoolers.

• **MUSICAL THEATER CLASSES** at Amato Center for the Performing Arts, Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Fall trimester registration is underway and classes include tap dancing, musical theater, costume design and construction, and more. Registration forms available at svbge.org. Call Toby Tarnow at 465-3456.

• **PEACOCK PLAYERS** (14 Court St., Nashua, 889-2330) is an award-winning youth theater that offers classes in theater, music and dance to ages 5 and up. The fall session includes 22 classes, such as Kinder-theatre, Theatre Jazz, Sight-Singing Workshop, Improve Your Improv and more.

• **WINDHAM ACTORS GUILD** is a non-profit theater group open to all ages. For more information, see windhamactorsguild.com or contact Producer Christopher Cohen at 560-0428 or ccohen@suffolk.edu.

• **YOUTH THEATER CLASSES** Peacock Players are accepting registrations for session-two classes. Mondays: Two by Two Theatre 10-11 a.m., ages 2-3. Musical Theatre I 4-5 p.m., ages 7-9. Musical Theatre II 5-6 p.m., ages 10-14. Tuesdays: Peacock Playhouse 10-11

ART LISTINGS

GALLERIES

Call for hours

- **Aaron Slater Glass**
21 W. Auburn St., Manchester,
380-3004
- **Andres Institute of Art**
98 Rte 13, Brookline, 673-8441,
andresinstitute.org
- **Art 3 Gallery**
44 W. Brook St., Manchester,
668-6650
- **Art on the Wall**
at **City Hall Gallery**
One City Hall Plaza, Manchester,
624-6455
- **Beaver Brook Association, Inc.**
117 Ridge Road, Hollis,
beaverbrook.org, 465-7787
- **Beliveau Fine Art Gallery**
Franco-American Centre,
52 Concord St., Manchester,
669-4045
- **Bourque & Associates**
835 Hanover St., Manchester,
623-5111
- **Chapel Art Center at Saint**
Anselm College, 100 St. Anselm
Drive, Manchester, 641-7470
- **Chimera Gallery**
99 Factory St. Ext., Nashua,
chimeragallery.net, 888-2661
- **Conservation Center Gallery**
Society for the Protection of
New Hampshire Forests
54 Portsmouth St., Concord,
224-9945 ext. 311
- **Currier Museum of Art**
150 Ash St., Manchester,
669-6144
- **Currier Art Center**
180 Pearl St., Manchester,
669-6144, ext. 122
- **Darkroom Gallery**
4 Vinton St., Manchester,
606-3322, darkroomgallery.net
- **East Colony Fine Art**
Langer Place, 55 S. Commercial
St., Manchester, 621-7400
- **Eaton-Richmond Center**
Gallery
Daniel Webster College,
20 University Drive, Nashua,
577-6000, dwc.edu
- **E.W. Poore Framing**
and Gallery
531 Front St., Manchester,
622-3802
- **Exeter Fine Crafts**
61 Water St., Exeter, 778-8282
- **Framers Market**
1301 Elm St., Manchester,
668-6989
- **Gallery One Nashua Area**
Artists Association (NAAA)
Mill House Design Center, 5 Pine
Street Ext., Nashua, 883-0603,
naaasite.org
- **Hatfield Gallery**
55 S. Commercial St.,
Manchester, 627-7560
- **Jewell & the Beanstalk**
793 Somerville St., Manchester,
624-3709
- **Kimball-Jenkins School of Art**
266 N. Main St., Concord,
225-3932
- **League of NH Craftsmen,**
Gallery 205
205 N. Main St., Concord,
224-3375, nhcrafts.org

at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, in a show aptly called "A Little Holiday Show." While Stone Jacobs is known for his landscape paintings, often of his beloved White Mountains, this show will focus on still-lives and portraits. These portraits are of his family members, although Stone Jacobs has done high-profile portraits before, like U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 225-2515 or visit mcgowanfineart.com. "Peppermint" by Ralph Stone Jacobs. Courtesy photo.

- Loading Dock Gallery,**
Western Avenue Studios
 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass.,
 978-349-8069
• MAA Gallery
 1528 Elm St., Manchester,
 785-6437
• Maison De L'Art
 57 East Pearl St., Nashua,
 879-9888 or 424-0544
• Mariposa Museum
 26 Main St., Peterborough,
 924-4555
• Massabesic Audubon Center
 26 Audubon Way, Auburn,
 668-2045
• McGowan Fine Art
 10 Hills Ave., Concord, 225-2515
• McIninch Gallery at SNHU
 2500 North River Road,
 Manchester, 629-4622
**• Mill Brook Gallery and
 Sculpture Garden**
 236 Hopkinton Road,
 Concord, 226-2046
 (by appointment in winter)
• Millyard Museum
 200 Bedford St., Manchester,
 622-7531
• Museum of NH History
 6 Eagle Sq., Concord, 228-6688,
 nhhistory.org
**• Nashua Library Image
 Gallery**
 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610
**• New Hampshire Institute
 of Art**
 French Building Gallery,
 148 Concord St.; Amherst Street
 Gallery, 77 Amherst St.,
 Manchester, 836-2573, nhia.edu
• Red River Theatres
Community Gallery
 11 South Main St., Concord,
 224-4600
• River Art Studios
 99 Factory St. Ext., Nashua,
 882-1199, riverartstudios.com
• Rivier College Art Gallery
 Memorial Hall, 435 S. Main St.,
 Nashua, 897-8276
**• New Hampshire Art
 Association's Robert Lincoln
 Levy Gallery**
 136 State St. in Portsmouth,
 431-4230
**• S. Grigis Art Studio
 & Gallery**
 174 Main St., Nashua, 233-9565
**• Stockbridge Theatre Gallery
 at Pinkerton Academy**
 5 Pinkerton St., Derry,
 437-5200 ext. 5112
**• Studio of Photographic Arts
 (SOPHA)**
 941 Elm St., Manchester,
 582-1492
• T. Devaney Fine Arts
 3 Pleasant St., Concord, 774-0018
• The Wine Studio
 53 Hooksett Road, 622-9463;
 27 Buttrick Road, Londonderry
• Valley Artisans Artists Gallery
 10 Goboro Road, Epsom,

• Warm Stone Studio
 99 Factory Street Ext., Nashua,
 595-9500, warmstonestudio.com
• White Birch Fine Art
 8 Mohawk Dr., Londonderry,
 434-0399

- **FIRST THURSDAYS** The Currier Museum of Art is open late from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. first Thursday of each month with special programs including live music, lectures and film, at 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 ext. 108 or see currier.org for tickets.
- **HOLIDAY FINE ART** will be held through Dec. 30 at the NH Art Association, 136 State St., Portsmouth. Visit nhartassociation.org.
- **DOWNTOWN MANCHESTER HOLIDAY MARKET** will be held Thurs., Dec. 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., in the Brady Sullivan Plaza Mall, 1000 Elm St., Manchester. Visit intown-manchester.com or call 645-6285.
- **WINTER LIGHTS IV ART EXHIBIT** will be held through Jan. 1 at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Visit theloadingdock-gallery.com or call 978-349-8069.

• **AN ECLECTIC FOCUS** Work of Ken Harvey will be on display in January and February at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. There will be an artist reception on Sat., Jan. 7, 3-5 p.m. Call 589-4610.

• **AS I SEE IT** Work of Art Ferrier will be on display through Feb. 4 at the Lawrence Library Art Gallery, 15 Main St., Pepperell, Mass. There will be an opening reception on Sat., Jan. 7, noon-2 p.m. Call 978-433-0330 or visit lawrencelibrary.org.

• **65th ANNUAL MEMBERS EXHIBITION** will be held Jan. 13 through Feb. 27 at the Sharon Arts Center Downtown Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be an opening reception on Fri., Jan. 13, 5-7 p.m. Admission is free. Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org.

• **HEAVY METAL** Work of Bev Belanger and Pat LaBrecque will be on display Dec. 27 through Jan. 28 at East Colony Fine Art, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. There will be an opening reception on Sat., Jan. 14, 5-8 p.m. Visit eastcolony.com or call 621-7400.

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by Kendra O'Donnell will be on display through April 27 at the Robert M. Larsen Gallery at Sulloway & Hollis, 29 School St., Concord. Call 225-2515.

• **ANITA PERRY** work is on display through December at the UNH Graduate School Manchester Campus, 4th floor, 286 Commercial St., Manchester. Call 641-4313 or visit gradschool.unh.edu/manchester.

• **ART FROM THE HARBOR GALLERY** will be held through December at the UNH School of Law, Two White St., Concord. Galler hours are weekdays, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 228-1541.

• **ARTFUL GIVING FOR THE HOLIDAY** will be held through Dec. 24 at the Millbrook Gallery & Sculpture Gardens, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 226-2046 or visit themillbrook-gallery.com.

• **BOB GRUEN** Rock & Roll photography will be on display through February at Wyatt Art Studios, 87 North Main St., Rochester. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays, noon-7 p.m. Visit wyattartstudios.com or call 207-200-1925.

• **BACKSTAGE PASS:** Rock & Roll Photography. Exhibit will be on display through Jan. 15 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **CLOSE TO HOME** Multi-artist exhibit through Dec. 31 at East Colony Fine Art, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 621-7400 or visit eastcolony.com.

• **COLLAGE** Multi-artist exhibition on display through Jan. 7 at the Sharon Arts Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 924-7676 or visit sharon-arts.org.

• **DAVID McPHAIL:** Looking Back... and Beyond will be on display through December at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. No admission to view gallery only. Call 742-2002 or visit childrens-museum.org.

• **DONNA GERTLER** will be the artist of the month for December and January at the Re/Max Properties, 2 Ash St., Hollis. E-mail Pat at PHurd1503@aol.com.

• **DRU CHICHESTER** work will be on display through December at the Rosewood Mall Art Gallery, 150 Lafayette Road, Rye. Hours are daily, 8:30-10 p.m. Call 964-9700.

• **EARLY WINTER '11 EXHIBITION AT 100 MARKET** Multi-artist exhibition will be held through Jan. 13 at The Gallery at 100 Market, 100 Market St., Portsmouth. Call 436-2818.

• **FACES OF NASHUA** Photographic essays will be on display through Dec. 31 at the Nelson Building, 100 Main St., Nashua. E-mail mark@studiomarkemile.com.

• **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL TOWN EMPLOYEES' EXHIBITION** will be held through December at the Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-2 p.m. Call 924-8040.

• **FRANK M. INGALLS** New per-

In a gallery near you



Turn on the lights

The Winter Lights IV Art Exhibit will be held through Jan. 1 at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass. The exhibit features

work from more than 15 northern Massachusetts artists, including Betsy Keeney, Ann Lee and Tarja Cockell. These artists work in everything from jewelry to photography. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be an artist reception on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. Visit theloadingdockgallery.com or call 978-349-8069. Ann Lee of Lowell. Courtesy photo.

In a gallery near you



East Colony is close to home

The works of Doreen Boissonneault and Dawn Sanel will be on display through Dec. 31 at the East Colony Fine Art gallery, which is located

in Langer Place, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. The show is called "Close to Home," which is fitting this time of year. Boissonneault works in oils and Sanel is a pastel artist. Both enjoy re-creating New England scenes. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 621-7400 or visit eastcolony.com. "Plum Island Beach" by Doreen Boissonneault. Courtesy photo.

manent photography exhibit at the Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Call 883-0015.

• **FULL CIRCLE:** Dahlov Ipcar's Circle Paintings, with a Round of Marguerite and William Zorach and Selected Works from the Boston Sculptors Gallery will be on display through September at the Paul Creative Arts Center at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. Gallery hours are: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and weekends, 1-5 p.m. Call 862-3712 or visit unh.edu/moa.

• **HOLIDAY MINIATURES EXHIBIT** will be held through Jan. 13 at the Sharon Arts Downtown Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org.

• **ICONS OF HISTORY:** Objects that Define New Hampshire. Objects will be on display through Dec. 31 at the New Hampshire Historical Society's museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord. Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688.

• **ILLUSTRATOR EXHIBIT** Work by several children's book illustrators is on display at the Brush Gallery and Artists Studio, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Visit thebrush.org or call 978-459-7819.

• **KIMBERLY PECK** work will be on display through Jan. 31 at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Rte. 101A, Milford. Gallery open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 673-8499 or visit nhantiquecoop.com.

• **MANCHESTER ARTS** website presented by the city arts commission, manchester-arts.org.

• **MONIQUE SAKELLARIOS** Work will be on display through Dec. 30 at the Nashua Public Library,

2 Court St., Nashua. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Call 589-4610.

• **NANCY HUBBE** December and January artist at the Seacoast Artist Association gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit seacoastartist.org.

• **NATIVITY SCENES** will be on display through Dec. 31 at the America's Credit Union Museum, 420 Notre Dame Ave., Manchester. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. and on Sat., Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 629-1553.

• **NEIL WETHERBEE** Photographs will be on display through early January at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Visit amherst.lib.nh.us or call 673-2288.

• **OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS** third Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Verdigris Artisans, 88 N. Main St., Suite 205, Concord, verdigrisartisans.com.

• **OPPOSITES ATTRACT** Multi-artist exhibit will be on display through the summer at the Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, 69 Maple St., Center Sandwich. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Call 284-7728 or visit patricialaddcarega.com.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey will be on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, free and open to the public. Call 589-4610.

• **PRECIOUS** Multi-artist holiday exhibit through Jan. 15 at Soo Rye Art Gallery, 11 Sagamore Road, Rye. Call 319-1578 or visit soorye.com.

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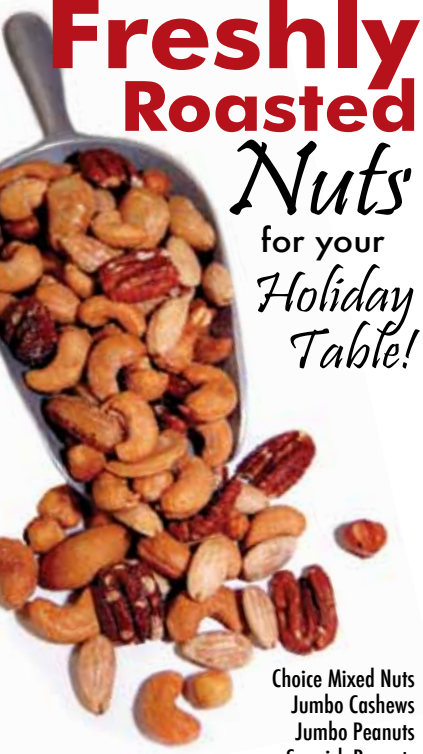
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New voices in Nashua

StageCoach Women's Chorus joins theater group

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

StageCoach Women's Chorus is a new choir in the Nashua area. Women's choirs are common but this one is different in that it is sponsored by a theater organization, StageCoach Productions.

Judy Hayward is heavily involved with the musical theater scene. She noticed there were plenty of women who weren't being cast for roles or who were singing in the pit. She speculated that these women might like another opportunity to sing.

Surveying the Nashua choir scene, she found the Granite Statesmen, the mixed choir of the Nashua Symphony and Voices of Hope, which competes in competitions, were the only options for prospective singers. She found a void for women who loved singing in high school and college and then, once those years were gone, found other musical opportunities had dried up. Basically, someone can only sing in a church choir or in a musical theater production.

"We wanted to give women a chance to sing the songs they loved in college," Hayward said.

The choir could have been its own entity but Hayward decided to make it a subset of StageCoach Productions, of which she is a founder. This means the annual fee chorus members pay goes toward the theater organization, as do any profits from shows. Being associated with a theater company provides advantages as

well. In April, StageCoach Productions will be putting on *Titanic*, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the disaster. Hayward is hopeful the chorus will perform at intermission.

It won't be its first gig. That honor happened at the Milford Pumpkin Festival. The choir also performed at Nashua's Holiday Stroll and held its first individual concert last week at Nashua's Community College. Hayward said she hopes to have a similar concert in the spring.

The women rehearse for these concerts on Saturday mornings because that is the most convenient time. As many are involved in theater, they have rehearsals in the evenings. Saturday mornings are usually free, even if there is a play because those wouldn't start until the afternoon or evening.

Even this flexible time has been too much for some people. Hayward said she began with 28 to 30 women, some in their early 20s, others with grandchildren. But busy schedules have led some away. Hayward said the group now has 20 members. They are always looking for more and all an interested person has to do is call Hayward at 672-9664.

The choir is non-audition because Hayward didn't want people getting nervous and then not showing up at all. It is also flexible. Everyone knows they can miss a rehearsal now and then if there's a conflict of interest. However, most of them are always there, which is why Hayward wanted to do the chorus in the first place.



The StageCoach Women's Chorus. Courtesy photo.

She said she has started show choirs with teenagers before but their SATs, voice lessons, prom and other activities would get in the way. These women have fewer conflicts.

"We may do competitions someday but right now we're focused on the fun part," Hayward said.

Singers don't have to memorize all the different songs, which makes things easier. But they do get to sing songs not normally sung in a church choir. In their winter concert, held last week, they sang

a German piece, in German, as well as Russian folk songs, songs from England, and the classic Hawaiian-themed Christmas song "Mele Kalikimaka" (think of the swimming pool scene in *Christmas Vacation*).

"We really perform an eclectic mix of music," Hayward said. "We can do show tunes, jazz songs or whatever."

Hayward said the purpose of the choir is to have fun and learn more about music.

Visit stagecoachproductions.org.

• **RALPH STONE JACOBS** Work will be on display through Jan. 13 at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. Call 225-2515 or visit mcgowanfineart.com.
• **SAM PAOLINI** Work will be on display through March at the Steez Gallery, 85 W Pearl St., Nashua. Visit thesteezgallery.com.
• **SCARLET ELECTRIC** Multi-artist exhibit on display through December at Launch Art, 28 Grove St., Peterborough. On view by appointment. Visit scarletelectric.com.
• **SILENT AUCTION** held every third Thursday of the month through December, 6-9 p.m. at 100 Main St., Nashua. Call 930-0623.
• **SMALL WORKS** will be on display through Dec. 31 at Lucy's Art Emporium, 303 Central Ave., Dover. Visit lucysartemporium.com.
• **SMALL WORKS, GREAT GIFTS** Holiday theme show on display through Dec. 24 at the Seacoast Artist Association gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit seacoastartist.org.
• **TRANSFORMATION** Photographic work of David MacEachran and Alicia Bergeron on display at Silver Light Gallery, 28 Main St., Suite 2, Goffstown. Visit silverhillsstudio.com or call 497-4674.
• **VISIONS AND REFLECTIONS: DIVERSE JOURNEYS** Multi-artist exhibit will be on display through Dec. 24 at the Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Call 226-2046 or

visit themillbrookgallery.com.

• **WATER** Works by Kathy Tangney will be on display through Dec. 31 at Sage Gallery... a Fine Art and Metaphysical Meeting Place, 70 Lowell St., Manchester. Call 626-7243 or visit sagegallery.net.
• **WESTERN NH ARTISTS** The work of Alicia Drakiotis and Sienna Merrifield Giffin will be on display through Dec. 30 at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 224-9945.

Open calls

• **CALL FOR ART** from artists under 30 years old for an exhibit in March at the Sharon Arts Center in Peterborough. There is a \$15 entry fee and submissions are due by Dec. 31. E-mail comingofage@sharonarts.org.
• **CALL FOR ART** Theme is "Sweet & Sentimental Thoughtful Delights." Deadline is Mon., Jan. 9, at noon at Gallery at 100 Market St., Portsmouth. E-mail maskmakernh@gmail.com.
• **CALL FOR ART** for monthly displays in the rotunda of the Wilton Public & Gregg Free Library. Contact library director Carol Roberts at carolrose56@hotmail.com or 654-2581.
• **CALL FOR ART** Exhibit for two months at Art on the Wall at City Hall Gallery, 1 City Hall Plaza, Manchester, for \$300. Contact Georgie Reagan, Mayor's Assistant for the Arts, 624-6500 to apply.

Classes/workshops/demonstrations

• **CAROL WHALEN ART STUDIO** Ongoing youth and adult classes in drawing, painting, and mixed media at Hampton Falls Common, 97 Lafayette Road, #9, Hampton Falls. Visit carolwhalenstudio.com or call 601-6900.
• **CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS** at Sharon Arts Center, 457 Route 123, Sharon, sharonarts.org, 924-2787.
• **CLASSES** for adult, teens, and children at White Birch Fine Art, LLC, 8 Mohawk Drive, Londonderry, 434-0399, WhiteBirchFineArt.com.
• **CITY ARTS NASHUA** cityartsnashua.org, a central place to buy tickets to the Nashua Symphony and Chamber Orchestra concerts, coffeehouse performances, theater productions, art fundraising events and more. Includes info on non-ticketed events including gallery openings, art exhibits, classes, films, poetry readings, and lectures, 589-3070.
• **FALL ART CLASSES** Available at Pottery@PhoebesBarn, 16 North Main St., Mont Vernon. Call 673-3410, e-mail pottery@phoebesbarn.com or visit phoebesbarn.com.
• **GLASS LAMPWORKING CLASSES** and studio use at Aaron Slater Glass, 21 W. Auburn St., Manchester, aaronslaterglass.com, 380-3004
• **GOFFSTOWN AREA ARTISTS** breakfast club, Mondays, 8 a.m. at Travers Village Eatery, 13 Main St., Goffstown.
• **IKEBANA** Learn the art of Ikebana

(Japanese flower arrangement) at Ikebana Flower, 95 W. Pearl St., Nashua. Two-hour classes are held weekly Wed., Thurs. and Fri. Call 595-8877.
• **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Visual and performing artists are invited to attend the Hollis Arts Society monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Lawrence Barn, 29 Depot Road, Hollis. Contact Pat Hurd, president, at 882-1503.
• **OIL PAINTING CLASS** Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 p.m., \$140 for 8 weeks, at East Colony Fine Art, 5 South Commercial St., Manchester, eastcolony.com. Contact Lawrence Donovan at 669-6994.
• **PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS** with Dan Splaine at Test of Time Photography studio in the Picker Building, 99 Factory St. Extension, Nashua, 579-0777, testoftimephoto.com.
• **POTTERY CLASSES** at Out on a Limb Pottery Studio, 99 Factory St. Ext., Nashua. All skill levels. Wheel throwing and handbuilding, days, evenings and weekends available. Call Paula at 978-597-5464 or e-mail mpash123@comcast.net.
• **POTTERY CLASSES** Learn to make pottery on the potters' wheel or learn hand-building techniques at Warm Stone Studio (99 Factory St., Nashua, warmstonestudio.com, 595-9500).
• **SMALL GROUP AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES** will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4 and 5:15 p.m. and Saturdays

at 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Becks Arts Express Studio, 5 Pine St., Extension, Nashua. Call 889-1670 or e-mail admin@artsexpressnh.com.
• **ZENTANGLE WORKSHOP** with Diane Ryan. Classes at E.W. Poore Art Studio, 531 Front St., Manchester. Call 622-3802.
• **ZENTANGLE CLASSES** will be held Tuesday afternoons or evenings for all ages and skill levels at E.W. Poore Art Studio, 531 Front St., Manchester. Call 622-3802.

Children's art classes

• **FALL/WINTER ART CLASSES** at Becks Arts Express, 5 Pine St. Extension, Nashua, 781-910-3438, artsexpressnh.com. Winter break camp will be held Dec. 27 through Dec. 29, 9 a.m.-noon for ages 7-12. Costs \$75.
• **ART CLASSES FOR KIDS** at Kimball-Jenkins Estate, 266 North Main St., Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com.
• **ART CLASSES FOR TEENS** at Kimball-Jenkins Estate, 266 North Main St., Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com. Offering courses in surrealism and manga/anime.
• **BECK'S ART EXPRESS** (5 Pine Street Ext., Mill Annex #6, Nashua, 781-910-3438, artsexpressnh.com) will give art classes to youngsters for \$12.50 per child per hour for small group lessons and \$25 per hour for private lessons. Arts Express is owned and operated by Rebecca Fredrickson, a professional artist and

certified teacher, and located in Nashua but will come to your location up to 75 miles away. Call 889-1670 or visit artsexpressnh.com.
• **CAMP DA VINCI** at Southern NH Montessori Academy, 1E Commons Drive Unit 28, Londonderry, snhma.org, 818-8613.
• **CREATIVE CRAFT CLASSES** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-3475, is offered Thursday at 4 p.m. Parents are invited to sign their children (ages 6-10) up for three sessions during Sept. and Oct. See tinyurl.com/nplkid.
• **FAMILY STUDIO** at Currier Museum (currier.org) every Wednesday 2:30-4:30 p.m. Adults and children can drop by one of the museum's new studios to participate in an art-related activity and brief gallery talk about the "Artwork of the Day." Every month will feature a new theme. No reservations required. Free with museum admission.
• **HOME SCHOOL ART CLASS** For ages 5-10 on Thursdays at 9:45 a.m. at Becks Arts Express Studio, 5 Pine St., Extension, Nashua. Class costs \$12.50. Call 889-1670 or e-mail admin@artsexpressnh.com.
• **KIDS' ART** at the Kelley Library, 234 Main St., Salem, 898-7064, third Tuesday of each month, at 3:30 p.m. This 90-minute program introduces kids in grades 2-5 to the work of artists and allows them to create their own work, too. Registration is requested; the class is limited to 15. To sign up, stop by the children's room.
• **KIDS ART CLASSES** will be


held Saturday mornings for 6- & 7-year-olds, Saturday or Thursday afternoons for 8- to 12-year-olds and Wednesday afternoons for 12- to 16-year-olds at E.W. Poore Art Studio, 531 Front St., Manchester. Call 622-3802.

- **LITTLE PICASSOS** White Wing School, 58 Lowell St., Nashua, Wednesdays, 9:15-10 a.m. Registration required. For ages 2-3. Explore watercolors, clay, oil pastels, and collage materials. Each class begins with a song and ends with circle story-time. Classes are taught by Rebecca Fredrickson an artist/teacher. Call Becks Arts Express at 889-1670 or e-mail admin@artsexpressnh.com to register.
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE INSTITUTE OF ART** (148 Concord St., Manchester, 866-241-4918, nhia.edu) offers classes for high school students for college credit. Prices vary depending on type of class and materials needed.
- **PRESCHOOL ARTS & CRAFTS** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-3475, is offered Thursdays at 1 p.m. Parents are invited to sign their children (ages 4-6) up for three sessions during Sept. and Oct. See tinyurl.com/nplkid.
- **TALK PAPER SCISSORS** (Willow Tree Plaza, 575 S. Willow St., Manchester, 669-8009, talkpaperscissors.com) offers classes for groups of three or more people to fit your schedule for all levels and ages. Classes include journaling, bookbinding, collage and scrapbooking. Children's birthday parties are available.
- **YOU'RE FIRED** (Bedford, 641-FIRE; Concord, 226-FIRE; Salem, 894-KILN; yourefirednh.com) has regular studio fees of \$6 for children (under 12), \$8 for adults, schedule of times online. Monday is Mini-Monday where children's studio fees are \$3 (half off). Friday Night is Teen Night with teen (13 to 19) studio fees \$4 (half off).

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

- **STRAFFORD WIND SYMPHONY** will perform on Fri., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$12 (\$7 for children under 12). Call 335-1992.
- **CAROL'S OF THE EPIPHANY SEASON** will be performed on Sun., Jan. 8, at 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Centre St., Concord. Free admission. Call 424-4743.
- **FACULTY CONCERT** will be performed on Sat., Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. at the Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 862-2404 or visit unh.edu/music.
- **HIGH STRUNG** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.
- **THE CHORAL GALA** will be performed on Sat., Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 862-2404 or visit unh.edu/music.
- **FANFARE 2012** Nashua Symphony will perform on Fri., Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua. Tickets cost \$75. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.
- **STRAFFORD WIND SYMPHONY** will perform on Fri., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$12 (\$7 for children

On stage



Symphony performs

The Strafford Wind Symphony, a 55-member ensemble, provides you the final kick of holiday spirit only days before Christmas when it performs on Friday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. The concert will be festive and will include local philanthropist Cliff Blake, who will return for the third time to read *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. The symphony is led by two conductors, Matthew Doiron and Bruce Gatchell, according to its website, straffordwindsymphony.org. Tickets cost \$12 (\$7 for children under 12). Call 335-1992. Strafford Wind Symphony. Courtesy photo.

under 12). Call 335-1992.

- **DMITRY KOZOV** Cellist will perform on Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.
- **NASHUA SYMPHONY STRING QUARTET** Performance will be held on Thurs., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Southern New Hampshire University Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit snhu.edu/music.
- **CORDIS QUARTET** will be performed Fri., March 3, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.
- **CELTIC JOURNEY** NH Philharmonic will perform on Sat., March 17, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15 to \$50. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.
- **SIMPLY GREAT** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., March 17, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.
- **THE HEIGHT OF RUSSIAN ROMANTICISM** Concert will be performed on Sat., March 24, at 8 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$10 to \$35. Call 226-4776 or visit gsso.org.
- **TAKACS QUARTET** will be performed on Wed., April 11, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.
- **25th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT** The Saint Anselm College Choir will perform on Sat., April 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/abbey/choir.
- **NATION BUILDING** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., April 14, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.
- **SNHU COMMUNITY BAND** Performance will be held on Mon., April 16, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit snhu.edu/music.
- **BALA BASS** Performance will be held on Thurs., April 19, at 7 p.m. at the Southern New Hampshire University Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit snhu.edu/music.
- **GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA** will perform on Sat., April 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm, Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost \$6-\$32.50. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.
- **FIREBIRD** NH Philharmonic will perform on Sat., April 28, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15 to \$50. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.
- **STRAFFORD WIND SYMPHONY** will perform on Fri., May 4, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$12 (\$7 for children under 12). Call 335-1992.
- **LOOKING IN** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., May 12, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.
- **PASSION AT THE SYMPHONY & SILENT AUCTION** Concert will be performed on Sat., May 12, at 8 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$10 to \$35. Call 226-4776 or visit gsso.org.

Open calls

- **SEEKING MUSICIANS** The Amherst Town Band is seeking new musicians on all instruments. They rehearse Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. in the choral room at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst. Most band members are amateur musicians. Visit amherst-townband.org.
- **THE MERRIMACK CHORUS** meets Sundays 7-9 p.m. at the John O'Leary Adult Community Center, 4 Church St., Merrimack. Call Choral Director Jamie Saucier at 828-6739. The Merrimack Concert Band meets Tuesdays beginning Oct. 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Merrimack Middle School band room, 31 Madeline Bennett Lane, Merrimack. Call Band Director Lelia Dutton at 429-8328.
- **CATHEDRAL CHOIR** of St. Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester will audition new members. Rehearsals are Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and the choir performs Sundays, at 10:30 a.m. Solemn Mass. Call Eric Bermami at 622-6404 ext. 31 or e-mail ebermani@stjosephcathedralnh.org.
- **RHYTHM OF NH SHOW CHORUS** will hold open rehearsals for all women on Thursdays, at 6:45 p.m. at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry. All voice parts are welcome, but the group is especially interested in those women who can sing melody (lead). Call 800-696-7351 or visit mhchorus.org.


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weeks before the event.

Conquering fear

Everest climber Craig John describes the journey

By Kelly Sennott
kesennott@hippolistings.com

There's nothing in the world quite like Mount Everest.

The claim is so obvious it could seem trite. But it's got substance when international climber and mountain guide Craig John of Portland, Maine, says it. John, who has taken part in four Everest expeditions (reaching the summit once) and more than 50 high-altitude expeditions worldwide, will share his stories at the Nashua Town Library (2 Court St., Nashua) on Thursday, Jan 5, at 7 p.m., and again at the Amherst Town Library (14 Main St., Amherst), on Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

His presentation will feature a multimedia slide show displaying photos to accompany his stories of climbs, which include mountains such as Everest, Kilimanjaro, Denali and Cho Oyu.

He's a friendly sort of fellow and a wonderful storyteller, especially when talking of his expeditions. He works as a guide for the International Mountain Guides based in Ashford, Wash., and the International Mountain Climbing School in North Conway, N.H.

It's not "conquering the mountain" that keeps him trekking. "After all," he said, "the mountain is still there when you leave!"

"Everest is a really cool place, because it is what it is, the tallest mountain in the world, but it is also a mountain with a really cool history," John said.

Men have been attempting to tackle Everest for years, some disappearing, some just falling short.

"The original attempts were by the British on the Tibetan side of the mountain in 1921, 1922 and 1924," John said. "And in 1924 George Mallory and Andrew Irvin disappeared high on the summit ridge. There has always been the question of whether or not they made it to the top. Then in the 1930s the British tried it again from the Tibetan side but

did not get to the top," John said.

It wasn't until 1953 that the British would put Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary on the summit. John is a part of this history, now.

He'll also talk about what it takes to get to the top of the mountain.

It starts with preparation. John had been climbing for about 20 years before he took on Everest, and even those in the groups he leads are required to have had years and years of climbing experience. The sky-high mountain (debated to be between 29,000 and 29,035 feet) requires about eight to 10 weeks to climb, along with an unyielding determination to get to the top.

They'll climb an exhausting six to eight hours a day; some days are longer, some are shorter, depending on weather. Finally, on the day the summit is reached, climbers get up incredibly early in order to return to camp before dark. John began his final stretch about 2 a.m. against a pink sunrise in 1998.

"I was lucky — I felt good that day, and it was a beautiful day to climb," John said. "I remained pretty reserved until the very last bit to the summit ... I was thinking, 'Don't count your chickens until they hatch.' After we climbed up the rocky gulley and got on the last bit of summit ridge, 20 vertical meters to the top, it was then I started to get choked up and realize we would make it," he said.

He decided to make a day out of the descent. "We spent only 15 minutes on top because I wanted to get down, and as it turned out, we went all the way to advance base camp at 21,000 ft. It was a descent of 8,000 ft. A long day, but very satisfying," John said.

Having been a part of four different Everest trips, he's not sure yet whether he'll be tackling it again. He has a young daughter at home now. But he'll always keep climbing. He has yet to reach the "seven summits," the highest peak in each continent. He'd still like to tackle Mt. Kosciuszko in Australia, Mt. Vinson in Antarctica, and Mt. Elbrus in Europe.



Craig John reached the summit of Mount Everest in 1998, one of four different trips.

"I think what I like most about it is the physical challenge; asking yourself: Can I do it? Can I get it done? You do wonder, because there are people who have died climbing Everest," John said. "I've run a marathon — I've challenged myself in other ways. But I like just being out there. The thing you conquer is your own fear," John said.

Throughout the presentation, he'll cover his adventures, but he'll also show how his travels and climbs have shaped much of his life — and not all are triumphant.

"As a guide, you also help people accomplish their dreams," John said. "But the number one priority is safety; getting to the summit is second," John said. "It doesn't count if you don't make it back down as well."

John said that the climb has become more popular in more recent years, and that the bar has lowered a bit. Which may be true ... but many of us will still have to settle for living vicariously through photos and stories.

To register to attend the Amherst Library lecture on Jan. 10, call 673-2288 or e-mail library@amherst.lib.nh.us. Registration is not required to attend the Nashua Library presentation. For more information on that one visit www.tinyurl.com/npllectures or call Carol at 589-4610.

Find out more about John, who is a member of the American Mountain Guides Association and the American Alpine Club, at his website, www.craigjohnclimbing.com.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Libraries

- **Amherst Town Library**
14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us
- **Bedford Library**
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us
- **Concord Public Library**
45 Green St, Concord, 225-8670, onconcord.com
- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksett.lib.nh.us
- **Manchester City Library**
405 Pine St., 624-6550; 76 N. Main St., 624-6560; manchester.lib.nh.us
- **Nashua Public Library**
2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4631, nashualibrary.org
- **Pollard Memorial Library**
401 Merrimack St., in Lowell, Mass, 978-970-4120, pollardml.org

- **Rodgers Memorial Library**
194 Derry Road, Hudson, rogerslibrary.org
- **Wadleigh Memorial Library**
49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us

Museums

- **The Children's Museum of NH**
6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org
- **Mariposa Museum**
26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, mariposamuseum.org

Nature

- **Amoskeag Fishways**
6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org
- **Beaver Brook Association**
117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org
- **Charmingfare Farm**
Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com
- **Daniel Webster Council of Boy Scouts**

- 571 Holt Ave., Manchester, 625-6431, nhscouting.org
- **Educational Farm at Joppa Hill**
174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org
- **Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains**
One Commerce Drive, Bedford, 627-4158, girlscoutsgwm.org
- **Massabesic Audubon Center**
26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org
- **McLane Audubon Center**
3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhaudubon.org

Science

- **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center**
2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com
- **RoboTech Center**
110 DW Highway, Nashua, 888-6102, robotechcenter.com
- **Seacoast Science Center**
570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org

- **SEE Science Center**
200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org

Other

- **Barnes & Noble**
1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557; 235 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-5961
- **Borders Books**
281 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-9300; 76 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 224-1255
- **Concord Boys & Girls Club**
55 Bradley St., Concord, 224-1061, concordkids.org
- **Concord Family YMCA**
15 N. State St., Concord, 224-5351, concordymca.org
- **Franco-American Centre**
52 Concord St., Manchester, 669-4045, francoamericancentrenh.com
- **Greater Manchester Family YMCA**
30 Mechanic St., Manchester, 623-3558, gmfamilyymca.org
- **Greater Nashua YMCA**

Kiddie Pool

Family fun this weekend

Movie time

What do you do with the kids during winter break without breaking the bank? Take them to see a community-hosted movie!

- The Manchester West Library (76 North Main St.) will be showing ***Kung Fu Panda*** on Friday, Dec. 23, at 3 p.m. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

- The Concord Public Library (45 Green St., Concord) will also be showing a movie Friday. Bring your family to see ***A Muppet Christmas Carol*** at 2:30 p.m.

- Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson) will be showing a number of different movies during holiday break, including ***Cars 2*** on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 1:30 p.m., and ***The Smurfs*** on Wednesday, Dec. 28, also at 1:30 p.m. Bring a comfy chair! Call 886-6030.

Animals and outdoors

- A **Winter Solstice Camp** will be held Tuesday, Dec. 27, through Thursday, Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the New Hampshire Audubon Society's Massabesic Center in Auburn and McLane Center in Concord. Kids ages 6 to 12 are invited to learn about cold-blooded critters, hit the trail and celebrate the new year at the three-day camp, with scavenger hunts, snowshoe walks, hikes and exploration. Children should bring their own lunches and snacks and be prepared for outdoor weather. Camper drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m., and after-hours care will be available from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Cost of camp

is \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members per day. Register online at www.nhaudubon.org, call 224-9909 x 333, or e-mail swall@nhaudubon.org.

- Wee ones will enjoy **Holiday Treks for Tots**, hosted by the Seacoast Science Center from Monday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 30, at 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye. Kids age 3 through 5 will explore different animal habitats and learn about how animals survive cold winters. Cost is \$35 per day or \$150 for the week. Visit www.seacoastsciencecenter.org/programs.

- And don't miss the **Amoskeag Fishways Open House**, which will take place Wednesday, Dec. 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature live animal shows, crafts, treats and door prizes. Admission is free, no pre-registration necessary. Call 626-3474.

Holiday celebrations

- There will be a **Living Nativity Scene** on Friday, Dec. 23, at 5 p.m., at the Bedford Presbyterian Church (4 Church Road, Bedford). All are invited for this free event. Call 472-5841 or visit bedford-presbyterian.org.

- **The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols from Olde New England** are on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Milford Oval. Complimentary hot drinks and refreshments will be served at this traditional Christmas caroling event. E-mail nativenh@gmail.com or call Light of the World Christian Church at 673-9324 or Burns Hill Christian Fellowship at 672-4476 for details.

should bring their own lunches and snacks, and be prepared to be outside with appropriate clothing. Camper drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m., and after-hours care will be available from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Cost of camp is \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members per day. Register online at www.nhaudubon.org, call 224-9909 x 333, or e-mail swall@nhaudubon.org.

- **HOLIDAY TREKS 4 TOTS** is hosted by Seacoast Science Center and takes place Dec. 26-30 at 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye. Kids age 3-5 will explore different animal habitats and learn about how animals survive cold winters. Cost \$30/day SDSC members, \$35/day for non-members, \$125/week for SSC members, \$150/week for non-members. Visit www.seacoastsciencecenter.org/programs.

- **DECEMBER DAY-CATIONS** will be hosted by the Concord Parks & Recreation and take place Tues., Dec. 27, to Thus., Dec. 29. Day-long trips include tubing at Gunstock, rock climbing, mini golf or bowling. Call 225-8690 or visit www.concordnh.gov/recreation.

- **ROBOTS & CARS CAMP** Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrens-museum.org, Wed., Dec. 28, & Thurs., Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At this two-day camp, suggested for ages 6 to 9, campers will build and program robots to complete an obstacle course, and build motorized cars for both speed and towing power by learning about gearing up and gearing down. Costs \$120 per child and pre-registration is required; call 742-2002.

Homeschooling

- **EARTH CYCLES** is a homeschool series on Thurs., Jan. 5, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness), which focus on cycles observed in the natural world, including the rock cycle, water cycle, life cycle, etc. One adult must attend with children at no cost. Each additional adult pays child fee. Register by calling 968-7194 or by emailing info@nature.org. Cost is \$9/member child, or \$11/non-member child. Visit www.nhnature.org.

- **GO GREEN AT AUDUBON CENTER** Homeschool and preschool children of all ages can find educational programs at Prescott Farm Audubon Center (928 White Oaks Road, Laconia, 366-5695) on Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. The homeschool programs are set up as six-week units designed to provide an in-depth look at a particular nature topic or theme.

- **HOMESCHOOLERS DISCUSSION GROUP** at Manchester Barnes & Noble (668-5557) the third Sunday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

- **MERRIMACK YMCA** offers homeschool tennis for children ages 7-12. Contact the Merrimack YMCA at 881-7778.

- **NASHUA YMCA** offers classes for homeschooled students including "Simple Science" and "Starting Spanish," and sports classes for 6- to 12-year-olds.

- **ONLINE CLASSES FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL** offered by The Virtual Learning Academy Charter School. The school offers history, art, entrepreneurship, marketing and technology courses. The Academy is tuition-free for students who live in NH. Out-of-state students can participate for a fee. Go to www.vlacs.org or call 778-2500.

- **PUBLIC SPEAKING** for homeschoolers ages 12-18. Contact 228-3911 or e-mail learnpublicspeaking@comcast.net to set up a class.

Martial arts

- **ACADEMY OF HEALTH & MARTIAL ARTS** (locations in Manchester, 626-5272, Milford, 672-1333, and Nashua, 598-4200, academy-martialarts.com) offers classes for children and teenagers. All classes are one hour. Some special sessions for new students are free of charge.
- **COBRA KHAN'S MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY** (865 2nd St., Manchester,

17 Prospect St., Nashua, 882-2011; 5 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, 881-7778; nmymca.org

- **Green Street Community Center**
39 Green St., Concord, 225-8699, onconcord.com/recreation
- **Manchester Boys & Girls Club**
55 Union St., Manchester, 625-5031, mbgcnh.org
- **Nashua Boys & Girls Club**
47 Grand Ave., Nashua, 883-0523, bgcn.com
- **Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club**
56 Mount Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002, svbgc.org
- **Toadstool Bookshop**
586 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734; 12 Depot Square, Peterborough, 924-3543; toadbooks.com
- **Verizon Wireless Arena**
555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, verizonwirelessarena.com
- **YWCA Manchester**
72 Concord St., Manchester, 625-5785

Events

- **MOVIES** at the Manchester Library this month will be ***Kung Fu Panda 2*** on Fri., Dec. 23 and ***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*** on Fri., Dec. 30. Visit www.manchester.library.org or call 624-6460.

- **MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be played at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, on Fri., Dec. 23, at 2:30 p.m. in the Library auditorium.

- **VACATION FAMILY MOVIES** at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson) at 1:30 p.m. Tues., Dec. 27, to Fri., Dec. 30. See family favorites on the big screen. On Tues., ***Cars 2*** will be shown; on Wed., ***The Smurfs***, Thurs., ***Kung Fu Panda 2***, and Fri. will be ***Dolphin Tales***. Snacks will be served. Bring own comfy chairs, if desired. Call 886-6030.

- **TRAVEL CLUB** at the Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, meets every month to take a "journey" to a different country. On Tues., Dec. 27, visit Germany; on Tues., Jan. 24, visit Canada, and on Tues., Feb. 28, visit China. For grades K-5. Registration recommended. Call 624-6550, ext. 328.

- **CREATE YOUR OWN CANDYLAND BOARD GAME** at the Pollard Memorial Library (401 Merrimack St., Lowell) on Wed., Dec. 28, from 2 to 4 p.m.

- **TIME CAPSULES** can be made at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, on Thurs., Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. in the Blanchard Room. Capsules to be opened in 2013. Free event.

- **RPG ADVENTURES** at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Thus., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m. Fun and games for children 13-17 who want to delve into a world of Mountain Dew, wizards and dragons. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen. Call 589-4610.

- **NEW YEAR'S PARTY** on Fri., Dec. 30, at 11:30 a.m. in the Winchell Room at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester). Ring in the new year with noisemakers, balloons and confetti. Children aged invited to the celebration. Registration required. Call 624-6550 ext. 335.

- **FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION** Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrens-museum.org, Sat., Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ring in the New Year with family and friends of all ages than at the Children's Museum of NH's annual New Year's Eve celebration. Create festive party hats, write wishes for the new year on flying blimps, and join in raucous "countdowns to midnight" at 11 a.m., 12:30 and 2 p.m. Complete with glittering ball drop and ginger ale toast.

- **GAME TIME** for game-board lovers at Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, on Fri., Dec. 30, at 1 p.m. Kids 10 and up are invited to join in and play Guess-timation and Name 5. Call 668-5557.

- **TEEN GAMING NIGHT** Wii Wednesday at the Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford) will take place 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 11, in the Keyes meeting room. Bring DS, PSP, controllers or games (rated T or lower) to play. Snacks provided.

- **BAG BOOK SALE** on Sat., Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Manchester Library (405 Pine St., Manchester). One of the best bargains of the year, buy books for children and young adults, VHS tapes, DVDs, audiobooks, etc. for just \$5 per bag. Contact Eileen A. Reddy at ereddy@manchesternh.gov or call her at 624-6550 ext. 320.

Vacation Camps

- **SEASIDE SAFARI VACATION CAMP** will be offered for children grades K-5 from Mon.-Fri. From Dec. 26-30 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost is \$50 per day for SSC members, \$55 for non-members, \$225/week for members, \$250 for non-members. Kids will travel to Odiome Point State Park and to other locations around the globe via "virtual field trips." Call 436-8043 ext. 16 or visit www.seacoast-sciencecenter.org/programs/daycamp.

- **WINTER ARTS CAMP** for kids will take place during winter vacation from Tues., Dec. 27, to Thus., Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. The camp will explore materials such as plaster, polymer clay and printmaking, and projects include creating a mask and a wind chime. The camp is intended for children 7 to 12, and admission is \$75. Email admin@artsexpressnh.com or call 781-910-3438 to register.

- **WINTER SOLSTICE CAMP** from Tues., Dec. 27, to Thus., Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Massabesic & McLane Centers at N.H. Audubon (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord). Kids ages 6 to 12 are invited to learn about cold-blooded critters, hit the trail and celebrate the new year at the three-day camp, with scavenger hunts, snowshoe walks, hikes and exploration. Children



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623-5778) specializes in children's lessons and welcomes kids as young as 3 years old. The academy offers group and private lessons.

- **GRANITE STATE AIKIDO CLUB** is starting a free beginner kids aikido program at Manchester Police Athletic League for mature children ages 6-12 (but older kids are welcome) running Fridays 4:30-6 p.m. at the PAL at the corner of Beech and Lake streets. Older youth may be better suited to adult classes (Tuesdays 6:30-8 p.m., Fridays 6:30-8 p.m., and Saturdays 2-4 and 4-5 p.m.). Visit www.gsaikido.com.

- **HOUSE OF SAMURAI** (28 Buttrick Road, Londonderry, 434-1445, www.karatenh.com) offers classes for children age 3+. Each class includes warm-up activities, karate basics, positive reinforcement of expected behavior, questions, and game time. Junior classes are for ages 6 to 13 and are sub-divided into novice, intermediate and advanced. Juniors are encouraged to attend class two times a week.

- **KENPO ACADEMY OF SELF-DEFENSE** (40 Manchester Road, Derry, 437-9900, www.kenpo-academy.com) has programs including Little Dragons (age 4 & 5), Juniors (age 6 to 9) and Junior Adults (age 10 to 16). Little Dragon are Saturdays, 9-9:30 a.m., Juniors and Junior Adults are daily (except Friday) depending on level.

- **MANCHESTER KARATE STUDIO** (24 Bridge St., Manchester, 625-5835, manchesterkarate.com) offers children's lessons. Students receive two free lessons, a free uniform and a "Safer Smarter Kids" manual.

- **MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF TAE KWON DO** (Manchester YMCA, 35 Mechanic St., Manchester, mstkdc.com) offers Tae Kwon Do for Kids, for ages 6 to 16. Students will advance through the "Bar System," a tiered testing system developed especially for this program. The testing qualifications will be Blue Bar (five classes), Red Bar (12 classes), and Gold Bar (18 classes). This is the normal time frame for the standard class, but allows the younger students to mark their progress incrementally. Students may progress at a staggered pace, depending on the individual. Following a successful Gold bar testing the student will test for the Yellow stripe. Classes are one hour long.

- **MASTERS SELF DEFENSE CENTERS** (166 North Broadway, Salem, 898-7504, www.connect.to/masters) offers classes for as young as 3.

- **MLK SELF-DEFENSE ACADEMY** (323 South Willow St., Manchester, 625-4655, mlksda.com) offers a Kickin' Kids program where for each of the children's belt levels there are three goals. There is also a Little Ninjas and Little Dragons program, based on an age-specific curriculum professionally designed to teach children eight important life skills in a fun and enriching manner. Little Dragons and Little Ninjas meet 5-5:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and Kickin' Kids meet 5:40-6:25 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

- **MORNING STAR MARTIAL ARTS** (307 Elm St., Milford, 654-7701, morningstarmma.com) offers programs including Tiger Kids (age 4 to 6), Juniors (age 7 to 12) and Adult (13+).

- **PAUL AVERILL'S MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY** (3 North Main St., Concord, 223-0300, averillsmartialarts.com). Along with Kung Fu,

In the spotlight



Winter art classes for kids

Got a young DaVinci at home? Enroll him or her in some art classes this winter through the Kimball Jenkins Estate (266 North Main St., Concord). "Introduction to Drawing," which takes place Mondays, 4 to 5:30 p.m., from Jan. 16 to March 5, engages children grades 4-6 in learning to observe and record with confidence what they see in the world around them. The cost is \$220 per child. Kimball Jenkins also will offer a class for children called "Fun with Clay," which also takes place Mondays from 4 to 5:30 p.m., and another class on using the potter's wheel will take place Wednesdays, Jan. 18 to March 7, for children 8 to 12 years. Call 225-3932.

Aikido, Chin Na, Tai Chi, and Qi Gong, the Academy has a children's program.

- **SIDEKICK TAE KWON DO** (Derry Plaza, Route 102, Londonderry, 434-4300, sidekicktaekwondo.com) offers classes for children six years old and over.

- **TERRY DOW'S ACADEMY OF MARTIAL ARTS** (200 Elm St., Manchester, 591-6546, www.terrydowsacademy.com) offers programs for children four years old and up. Beginner children's classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:15-6 p.m.

- **TOKYO JOE'S SELF DEFENSE** (1338 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 641-3444, tokyोजoeshooksett.com) offers classes for kids through Saturdays. Call for schedule.

- **TOKYO JOE'S STUDIO OF SELF DEFENSE** (143 W. Pearl St., Nashua, 889-4165, tokyोजoes.net) has programs including Little Panthers (age 3-4), Dragons (age 5-6) and Juniors (age 7-12) and a teen program. Most classes are offered every day except Sunday.

Nature

- **WINTER NATURE EXPLORATIONS: WILD SNOWMEN** will take place Wed., Dec. 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Curious George Cottage (7 Noon Peak Rd., Waterville Valley). Learn about ways that local wildlife survive during the winter time. Create wild snowmen with edible decorations, and provide local wild creatures with a snack. Intended for families with children over 3. Dress in warm layers and snowboots. Admission is \$4 per person or \$10 per family for members; \$7 per person and \$15 for families for non-members. Call 236-3308 or visit www.thereycenter.org.
- **FISHWAYS OPEN HOUSE** Amoskeag Fishways will hold an Open House on Dec. 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., which will feature live animal shoes, crafts, treats and door prizes. Admission is free, and no pre-registration necessary. Call 626-3474.

- **WINTER NATURE EXPLORATIONS: ANIMAL TRACKS** will be held by the Rey Center at Curious George Cottage (7 Noon Peak Rd., Waterville Valley) on Fri., Dec. 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn about the tracks and signs that animals leave behind in the snow and in the forests. The group will find wildlife outside during the day-adventure, which is designed for adults and families with children over 5. Bring snowshoes or rent a pair in advance from the Nordic Center in Town Square. Dress in warm layers! Admission is \$4 per person or \$10 per family for mem-

bers; \$7 per person or \$15 per family for non-members.

- **WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION** will be held by the Rey Center at Corcuran's Pond Beach in Waterville Valley on Thus., Dec. 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join in on the bonfire that will celebrate the day that marks the return of the sun! Celebration will feature the telling of the solstice legend, singing and other solstice traditions. Hot cocoa, cider, and potluck deserts. Suggested donation is \$5 per person.

- **PIZZA PARTY WITH THE PAINTED TURTLE** at the Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Fri., Jan. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Participants will eat pizza and meet animals. Admission is \$15 per family, which includes pizza. Advanced registration required; Call 626-3474 or visit amoskeagfishways.org.

- **BIRD BANDING OPEN HOUSE** on Sat., Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness) allows visitors to drop in anytime during the morning to learn about common birds that are winter visitors, as well as why birds are banded. No charge. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

- **WINTER WILD WALKS** will be held Sat., Jan. 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sun., Jan. 15, from 1 to 3 p.m., Sat., Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Sun., Jan. 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness). Be prepared to snowshoe. Register by calling 968-7194 or emailing info@nhnature.org. Costs \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. Visit www.nhnature.org.

- **WINTER BIRDING EXCURSION** at the Squam lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness) on Sun., Jan. 22, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., is being held to search for the hardy bird species that spend their winters along the N.H. and Mass. seacoast. Led by Science Center Executive Director Ian MacLeod. Through the day, visit Seabrook Harbor, the Salisbury Beach State Reservation and Plum Island to search for ducks, hawks, eagles, owls and more. Register by calling 968-7194 or emailing info@nhnature.org. Admission is \$30/member or \$40/non-member. Visit www.nhnature.org.

- **WINTER IS FOR THE BIRDS!** is a presentation for pre-school students brought by the Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Wed., Jan. 25, from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 1 to 2 p.m. From the cardinal to the chickadee, lots of birds stay in New Hampshire during the winter time. Admission is \$5 per family, and advanced registration with payment is required.

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Teen/tween events

- **PLAY DATE NH** invites youth 12-18 years to learn, play and enjoy new card, strategy and board games. Semi-professional gaming geeks will be on hand to mentor new players in classic and modern games. Come Thurs., Dec. 29, from 4 to 8 p.m.; Thurs., Jan. 12, and Thurs., Feb. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m., in the Winchell Room at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550).
- **ANIME CLUB** for ages 12-18 at the Hollis Social Library on the last Monday of every month, 2:30-4:15 p.m.
- **ANIME CLUB** for ages 12-17 at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, first Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Discuss anime or manga series, participate in games and activities, and display your anime sketches in the teen room. Call 589-4612 or visit www.tinyurl.com/nplteen.
- **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester. Meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Open to teens in grades 6-12. Play cards, watch movies, discuss favorite characters, and draw. Call Kate Norton at 624-6550 ext. 335 or e-mail knorton@manchester.nh.gov for details.
- **ANIME CLUB** for grades 8-12 at the Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell, meets every other Tuesday, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., from Sept. 20 through Dec. 13. To sign up, call 978-970-4122.
- **BALLROOM DANCING** for ages 11-19 at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester. To sign up, e-mail nqctybalrm@aol.com or call 622-1500. Visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.
- **CECILIA ENSEMBLE** high school age section of the Peterborough Children's Choir is open to girls grades 9-12 who can meet for practice Mondays 4-5:30 p.m. at Peterborough Unitarian Church on Main Street. There are requirements for singing ability and self-motivation. Contact Maria Belva at 924-2055 or maria-belva@gmail.com. www.pcchoir.org.
- **CHICKS WITH STICKS BOOK CLUB** Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford, meets monthly on Thursdays, 3 p.m. in the AV Room. For grades 7 and up, this club invites participants to bring their current knitting projects, enjoy snacks and book discussions. New members and beginner knitters are welcome. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.
- **FANTASY BOOK CLUB** held on the first Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. For kids age 8-13 who love reading fantasy books about dragons, magic, the future and more. Free and open to the public.
- **GEEKS R US ANIME CLUB** for teens at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford, meets monthly on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. in the Keyes Meeting Room. Hang out and discuss your favorite anime or manga series, games and activities. Call -2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.
- **JR. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY** Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, for grades 5 and up, on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Children can help organize, plan and run special family, children's and summer reading programs. They can earn volunteer hours. Sign up at www.hollislibrary.org.
- **MONDAY NIGHT SCRABBLE** every week, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. Join young adults

for some fun rounds of this classic word game. Invite a partner. Bring a Scrabble board, if possible.

- **NH INSTITUTE OF ART** (148 Concord St., Manchester, 866-241-4918, www.nhia.edu) offers classes for high school students college credit. Prices vary depending on type of class and materials needed.
- **QUEEN CITY BALLROOM TEEN CLASSES** Sundays, 4:30-5:15 p.m. at the Queen City Ballroom Studio, 21 Dow St., Manchester. For ages 11-19. Learn how to ballroom, swing and Latin dance. Each month features a different dance. Come with or without a partner. No pre-registration. Classes are free, but a commitment to regular attendance is required. E-mail nqctybalrm@aol.com or call 622-1500.
- **TEEN ADVISORY BOARD** meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. For ages 13-18. Help the library plan programs, choose books and materials for teens, organize outreach, decorate the teen area, eat snacks and hang out with friends. Community service credit will be given.
- **TEEN COOKING CLUB** at Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, meets monthly on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Teens ages 11-18 are welcome to learn the basics of cooking, make their favorite dishes and explore new types of food. All materials will be provided. Club meets in the Winchell Room. Call 624-6550.
- **TEEN MUSIC CLASSES** at Music Together of Milford, 102 Elm St., Milford, on Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Advanced and intermediates welcome to acoustic music class led by Amy Conley. Cost is \$10/session. Adults also welcome. Call -9560 to register. Visit www.amyconleymusic.com.
- **TEEN PIZZA & PAGES** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, meets monthly on Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. For grades 5 and up. Enjoy pizza while discussing a book. Copies available on the teen display. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.
- **TWEEN TUESDAYS** every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the meeting room at the Hollis Social Library. Choose from Fantasy Book, Game Club, Craft Days, Book Buddies, or do all four. Fantasy Book Club is on the first Tuesday of every month and designed for kids who love reading fantasy books. Books provided at each meeting for the following month. Game Club is on the second Tuesday of every month and includes Wii, board games and snacks. Craft Days are the third Tuesday of every month. Book Buddies is the fourth Tuesday of every month and includes planning story times and crafts for preschool children. Read at after-school story-time and family pajama time
- **WII DAYS FOR TEENS** at Hollis Social Library, every other Friday, 3 p.m., for ages 12-18. Snacks and drinks provided. Sign up at the circulation desk.
- **TEEN WRITING CLUB** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford. Free-write for the first half hour, then read aloud (you can bring in anything you've been working on at home for this part). Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.
- **WRITER'S BLOCK** is a group of aspiring writers who meet up every Saturday in the Library Meeting Room at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis. Call 456-7728 after 5 p.m.
- **YOU'RE FIRED** (Bedford, 641-

FIRE; Concord, 226-FIRE; Salem, 894-KILN; yourefirednh.com) Friday Night is Teen Night and teen studio fees are \$4 (half off).

Toddler/preschool/baby

- **BABY LAPSIT** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford, meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For birth to 18. Bouncing rhymes, tickle songs and lots of movement. Older siblings welcome. No registration required. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.
- **BABIES AND BOOKS STORYTIME** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, Thursdays at 9 & 10 a.m. (ages 13-24 months); 11 a.m. & noon (up to 12 months). Through music and stories, parents can learn how to read aloud and develop their babies' language and pre-reading skills. No registration is required. For more information, call 589-4631 or go to www.nashualibrary.org.
- **KINDERMUSIK CLASSES** in music and movement are offered at Kindermusik in Peterborough, www.kindermusik.com, for ages 1½-3.
- **LISTEN LIKE LEARN** is a holistic approach that involves listening, moving and singing to help students feel the rhythm of language, stimulate their curiosity, strengthen their ability to listen, concentrate, focus, and develop speech and auditory discrimination. Classes for children from infants to five years. Fee for 10-week session is \$180 per child. Call 769-9553 or email rahel@rahelmusic.com or visit www.yourchildsmusic.com.
- **LITTLE EXPLORERS** at McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, on third Wed. of the month, 10 a.m. Space workshops for ages 3-4. Visit www.starhop.com.
- **LITTLE MOVERS STORYTIME** at the Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., most Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., combines books, music and movement activities for children ages 2-5. No registration is required. Call 624-6550 ext. 328 for info.
- **MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE** at the Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell, 978-970-4118, is a series of nursery rhyme programs for children from birth through age three. Big sisters and brothers are welcome too. Takes place every Tuesday at 10 & 11:15 a.m. Guests are asked to choose only one session.
- **MUSIC & MOVEMENT CLASSES** at Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord, for ages 6 months to 7 years old. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusic-school.org.
- **PRESCHOOL STORYTIME** at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, 465-7721, Mondays at 11:45 a.m., and Thursdays at 11:45 a.m. and 4 p.m. This drop-in program is for ages 3 to 5 and includes stories and crafts.
- **PRESCHOOL STORYTIME** at the Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell, 978-970-4118, takes place every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. For children ages 3 and up.
- **PRESCHOOL STORYTIME** at the Tucker Free Library (31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, www.tuckerfreelibrary.org) every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. The storytime includes stories, songs and activities.
- **PRESCHOOL YOGA BUDS** Concord Recreation Department, 1 White St., Thursdays. Children along with their parent/guardian will share stories, songs and yoga poses to build self-awareness, coordination, coop-



Dear Donna,
I have an antique tea set and I wonder if you can help me determine its worth and its history. It's a five-piece tea set that includes creamer, sugar with lid, teapot, coffee pot, and server's tray. It weighs approximately 10 lbs. and is marked on each bottom "prelude international sterling silver." It belonged to my grandmother and if my research is correct it is very valuable but I would like an expert's opinion.
Lauren in New Hampshire

Dear Lauren,
The International Silver Co. has been around since before the turn of the century (1900s). It was a mixture of a few different silver manufacturers. Prelude is just one of many patterns they produced. To value silver is tough because today the price of silver (scrap) is so high that sometimes it's worth more as melt than as a tea set.

There are several places to do research online for values on sterling but I have to say it's tricky because the purchase price is much higher than the selling price. Places that provide replacement pieces might sell a pieces for several hundreds of dollars but only pay a fraction of that to purchase them. So when doing research you can easily think the value is a lot higher than it realistically is.

I think I would have to say that for an insurance value (to replace it) there would be a retail figure which is usually at least a 500- to 700-percent markup. This means that it has had plenty of room for profit from the original retailer.

In today's market, I would have to say the scrap metal value is the realistic val-



ue of the piece. I hate to say this because I am an antique dealer and want to see these items stay around forever. But I am not the one in charge of the market and I see scrap-ping every day.

This rule is not for all, though. Fancier patterns and higher-quality makers such as Tiffany, Kirk etc. can bring far more than any scrap value. But in general as I said the sad fact for a set like yours would probably be that there's more value in melt at this point. But if you are looking for a replacement appraisal that certainly would be higher than melt (but remember not the realistic value).

Remember you have 10 pounds of silver, so do the math at today's prices Lauren. I hope this was helpful to you. If you are going to sell this I would be careful and get at least two opinions for a melt value. If you are keeping it and would like an insurance appraisal I would say the value is in the \$2,000+ range. If I can be of any further help please ask.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor and a licensed auctioneer. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

eration and calmness. Call 225-8690.

- **TINY PEOPLE BOOK CLUB** at Kaleo Coffee, 83 Main St., Dover, 343-4139, www.kaleocoffee.com. The group meets every Wednesday, from 10 to 11 a.m., for fun reading activities.
- **TINY TOTS STORYTIME** held every Friday at 11:30 a.m. at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. For infants to age 3. Introduction to rhymes, stories, songs and new friends. Free and open to the public.
- **TODDLER YOGA BUDS** Concord Recreation Department, 1 White St., Thursdays. For children ages 4-6. Learn breathing techniques, yoga poses and games that foster self awareness. Play games that will engage the mind and body. Call 225-8690.
- **TODDLER TALES** for children ages 2 to 3 with a parent/caregiver, at the Concord Public Library, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m.

CLUBS

Hobby

- **APPLE CLUB** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, meets the last Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. This club will provide local user support for Apple products. User meetings feature product demos and discussions of technology as it relates to Apple computing. Visitors are welcome.

Visit web.me.com/applepower.

- **GENEALOGY CLUB**, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, second Friday of each month, 1:30 p.m. Trade tips and techniques with others interested in family research and learn about genealogical resources located in the library. Visit www.rogerslibrary.org or call 886-6030 ext. 4522.
- **MANCHESTER RICHELIEU CLUB** meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at the Chateau Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. If you speak French, enhance your enjoyment of the language by becoming a member of this club. Call Walter Parenteau at 964-6925.
- **MANCHESTER STAMP CLUB** meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Villa Crest Nursing Home, 1276 Hanover St., Manchester. Call Bob Dion at 625-5082.
- **NASHUA CAMERA CLUB** meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the Nashua Public Library. Each month there are three different topics chosen for competitions. Entries can be submitted either digitally or as prints no larger than 16"x20" (with mat) and no smaller than 8x10. Visitors and new members are always welcome. See www.nashuacameraclubnh.org or

contact Dave Marden at 305-7036 or dmarden1@myfairpoint.net.

- **NASHUA SWIM & TENNIS CLUB** (140 Lock St., Nashua, 883-0153, www.nashuaswimandtennis.com) offers lessons and club tournaments in tennis.
- **NH FLYING TIGERS** radio control flying club meets the last Wednesday of every month at the B-St. Flying Field, 1 B St., or Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 W. Broadway, Derry. Visit newhampshireflyingtigers.org.
- **PAREI ENERGY EXCHANGE** to discuss renewable energy. Visit plymouthenergy.org or call 536-5030.
- **PHOTOGRAPHERS FORUM** camera club meets at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua, on the first and third Monday of each month (except July and August). This informal club offers educational programs for all ability levels and the opportunity to meet people with similar interests. Attend your first meeting free. Thereafter, dues are \$30 per year for individuals, \$50 for families; full-time students pay \$15. See www.photographersforum.org. Next meeting on Mon., Dec. 19.
- **RADIO CLUB** Radio Club meets first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at

First Church of Nashua, 1 Concord St., Nashua. Go to www.n1fd.org.

- **SOUTHERN NH FLYING EAGLES** club meets at their flying field in Merrimack throughout the summer. Meetings are open to the public. Visit snhflyingeagles.org.
- **SOCRATES CAFÉ** second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Starbucks, 1111 South Willow St., Manchester. Contact Marc Berthiaume at Socratescafeh@comcast.net.
- **SOCRATES CAFE PHILOSOPHY DISCUSSION** meets the first Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Lorden Plaza, Milford. Group is open to the public. Call 889-0839.
- **SOUHEGAN VALLEY BRIDGE PLAYERS** 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Wadleigh Memorial Library in Milford; newcomers always welcome.
- **SOUTHERN NH RADIO CONTROL CLUB** on the second Tuesday of the month at Wagner Field on Old Landfill Road in Hudson. Visit snhrcc.org or e-mail Wally Adaszczik at president@snhrcc.org.
- **UNITED DIVERS OF NH** the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the YMCA in Manchester (30 Mechanic St.). Visitors are welcome. Visit udnh.org.
- **WRITER'S BLOCK** is a group of aspiring writers who meet up every Saturday in the Library Meeting Room at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis. Call 456-7728 after 5 p.m.

Men's

- **RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION** invites retirees to its meetings, held the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at Prime Time, 195 McGregor St. in Manchester. Coffee and donuts are available during the social mixing period of the meeting. Call 391-1663 or contact EJH@Juno.com.

Professional

- **CONCORD YOUNG PROFESSIONALS** meets third Wednesday each month. Call 224-2508 or e-mail rkinhan@concordnhchamber.com.
- **IUGO** is young professionals and is by the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce, nashuachamber.com. No cost for membership. Go to iugonashua.com.
- **MANCHESTER ROTARY CLUB** at 12:15 p.m. at Fratello's Restaurant (155 Dow St., Manchester). Visit www.manchesterr Rotary.org.
- **MANCHESTER YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK** meets monthly; see www.mypn.org.
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE CREATIVE CLUB** is an organization of creative professionals such as graphic designers, photographers, illustrators, copywriters, desktop publishers, printers, color separators and other professionals in related fields. The club serves as a creative forum for networking and education in the advertising and visual communications field through a series of monthly meetings that include panel discussions, presentations and workshops. Visit nhcreativeclub.org.

Toastmaster clubs

- **AMOSKEAG BETTER COMMUNICATORS** every Wed. 7-9 p.m. at the Amoskeag Business Incubator, 33 S. Commercial St. in Manchester. E-mail info@abc.freetoasthost.us or go to abc.freetoasthost.us.
- **CAPITOL TM** Monday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Casey Family Services, 105 Loudon Road, 2nd floor, Concord. Visit capital.freetoasthost.us.

In the spotlight



Get the kids outdoors

The Winter Solstice Camp at the Massabesic Center (in Auburn) and the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord) of the New Hampshire Audubon Society will take place Tuesday, Dec. 27, through Thursday, Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kids ages 6 to 12 are invited to learn about cold-blooded critters, hit the trail and celebrate the new year at the three-day camp, with scavenger hunts, snowshoe walks, hikes and exploration. Children should bring their own lunches and snacks, and be prepared to be outside. Camper drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m., and after-hours care will be available from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Cost of camp is \$50 per day. Register online at www.nhauudubon.org, call 224-9909 ext. 333 or e-mail swall@nhauudubon.org.

us or e-mail learn.more@capital.freetoasthost.us.

- **CONCORD TM** meets Fridays at 7 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 2 Maitland St. in Concord. Call 224-2468 or e-mail concordtoastmasters@verizon.net or go to concord.freetoasthost.info.

- **CORE TM** meets on Tuesdays at noon at Felton Brush Company, 7 Burton Drive, Londonderry. Go to core.freetoasthost.net.

- **EXETER SPEAK-UPS** meets first, third and fifth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at the Stop & Shop Supermarket, second-floor conference room, 137 Portsmouth Ave., Exeter. For more information, e-mail info@exterspeakups.freetoasthost.us or go to exterspeakups.freetoasthost.us.

- **HORSEPOND** meets Wednesdays at noon at Northeast Delta Dental, Delta Drive. Call 223-1287 (ask for Joe) or e-mail jkasper@nedelta.com or go to horseshoepond.freetoasthost.us.

- **MERRIMASTER** meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at noon at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St. in Nashua. For more information, go to merrimaster.freetoasthost.com/index.html.

- **TM OF MANCHESTER** first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month, at 6 p.m. at VHG Labs, Inc., 276 Abby Road in Manchester. more information, to Manchester.freetoasthost.info.

- **TM OF MILFORD** meets on the second and fifth Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at The Amato Center (Boys & Girls Club), 56 Mont Vernon St. in Milford. For more information, call Jennifer Cretsinger at 654-9858 or go to milfordtmc.freetoasthost.ws.

- **TOP OF THE TOWN CLUB** meets at 11:30 a.m. on Fridays at New York Life, the 8th floor at 1155 Elm St. in Manchester. Call 222-2550 or e-mail bkeane@ft.newyorklife.com.

- **WINNING SPEAKERS CLUB** meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Windham Senior Center, 2N. Lowell Road, Windham. E-mail club_visits@winningspeakers.freetoasthost.com or go to winningspeakers.freetoasthost.com.

Women

- **BPW NASHUA CHAPTER** The Business and Professional Women group (bpwnashua.com) on the third Thursday of the month at 11:15 a.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua. The luncheon meeting includes a keynote speaker and networking. Everyone is welcome to attend. RSVP is not necessary. There is a

small charge for the meeting.

- **RETIRED WOMEN'S GROUP** at Prime Time, 195 McGregor St. in Manchester. Fourth Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Call 663-6333.

- **QUOTA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB** meets fourth Monday of each month. Quotarians are known for service to deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech-impaired individuals and disadvantaged women and children. Go to www.quotamanchesternh.org.

- **QUEEN CITY MOTHERS OF TWINS CLUB** support group for mothers, grandmothers, guardians and expectant mothers of multiples, www.queencitymothersoftwinsclub.com, meets at Knights of Columbus Hall, .Porter St., Manchester.
- **WOMAN'S CLUB OF CONCORD** meetings the Chamberlin House, 44 Pleasant St., Concord. Go to www.concordwomansclub.com.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Adult education

- **ADULT EDUCATION** classes offered by Nashua School District at Chuck Druding Drive, Nashua, 589-6416. Nashua Adult and Community Education offers courses for adults 18 and older to earn credit toward a high school diploma, drivers education program and an enrichment program with classes in arts and crafts, cooking, language, engine repair, college planning, computers and more. Courses run at night. See nashua.edu for class schedules, prices and registration information.

- **CONCORD TV** Concord Community TV, at Concord High School, 170 Warren St., Concord, offers classes in studio production, introduction to camera and editing for Concord residents. Prerequisite is to attend an orientation, held on the first Thurs. of the month at 6 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.yourconcordtv.org for a class schedule and call 226-8872 to sign up.

- **CITIZENSHIP CLASSES** Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua, 882-9080 ext. 201. Two free six-week courses will be offered at the center beginning in October to prepare students for the citizenship test and to aid with the citizenship application process. Day classes begin Wed., Oct. 12, and evening classes begin Thurs., Oct. 13. Register at the Adult Learning Center between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., or call 882-9080 ext. 201.

- **CLASSES FOR LIFE** Concord High School's continuing education program offers computer courses, driver's education, a diploma program and youth classes. All classes held at Concord High School, 170 Warren St.,

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Tending your soils, now!

Save the microbes, nourish your plants

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

I have a confession to make: I added soil amendments last week without first getting my soil tested. I teach gardening, and the first thing I say about soil is it to get it tested before you do anything. But winter is coming, and I have a good idea what a soil test would tell me. So I added some limestone to my lawn around an aging maple tree, and I added sulfur around my blueberries.

Here’s what my thoughts were: I know that the acid rain we have leaches out calcium from the soil. Maple trees, in particular, suffer if they don’t have enough calcium, so I added some. I used a 28-oz. can, spreading six containers of agricultural limestone in a circle with a radius of 25 feet around the tree.

I know that blueberries like very acid soil, and that adding some sulfur is a good thing, especially since I haven’t done so in a couple of years. Blueberries perform best when the soil is between pH 4.5 and 5.5, and my soil is probably about pH 6.0. In a 6-foot diameter circle around each bush I sprinkled 1 pound of garden sulfur, which should help.

I recently spoke to soil scientist Dr. Wendy-Sue Harper of Monkton, Vt., to see what she recommended we do at this time of year. Her strongest recommendation was to make sure we cover up any bare soil with leaves, straw or mulch hay. She said that if you have cleaned up the vegetable garden and bare soil is exposed, it’s likely that some of your all-important top soil will wash or blow away before next spring. Gardens on any slope are especially vulnerable to erosion.

Some gardeners take soils for granted. They spread some 10-10-10 fertilizer on the soil in the spring or water with a liquid chemical fertilizer in summer, and they get tomatoes and carrots. But I recommend compost and organic fertilizers because they nourish the beneficial organisms in the soil. In preparing for this article I read a book on soils called “Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener’s Guide to the Soil Food Web” by Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis. The book, which is highly technical, makes the point that good soil is chock full of living organisms, millions in a teaspoon, and that any chemical, including chemical fertilizers, reduces the numbers of living organisms in the soil.

The authors explain that chemical fertilizers are salts. You probably know what happens if you sprinkle salt on a slug. It dies. The same happens to your beneficial microbes when you add chemical fertilizers.

Lowenfels and Lewis explain that the microbes in your soil contain not only nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (the contents of chemical fertilizer) but also all the micronutrients needed by plants but not found in chemical fertilizer. Bacteria, fungi and other microbes hold onto nutrients in their bodies, only releasing them when they die or are eaten by other organisms. The chemical nutrients in these microbes are in a form that can be absorbed easily by roots of plants when released in the soil.

The area right around the roots of your plants is especially full of microbes. Why? Because plants’ roots give off excess sugars. Plants produce extra sugars by photosynthesis during the day, and exude sugars at night.

That may sound crazy, but it isn’t: plants and microbes in a healthy organic soil share nutrients, helping each other. Plants benefit by having fungi surrounding their roots because fungi hold water and minerals that they share with the plants; fungi benefit by getting food from the plants. It’s a win-win situation.

Fungi produce acids and enzymes that can dissolve minerals that plants cannot ingest. The tip of a fungal hypha (rootlet, if you will) can also break down cellulose and lignin, tough materials that contain useful ingredients for plant growth — recycling the nutrients.

As I explained in my book *The Vermont Gardener’s Companion*, sandy soils have large particles and don’t hold onto water and minerals easily. Think of sandy soil as golf balls in a wire basket. Water flows right through. Add compost — like adding sponges to the basket of golf balls — and water and nutrients are retained.

Clay soils are more like a bowl of baker’s flour: fine particles that don’t let water pass through easily and are sticky when wet. Loam is what we want: a mixture of particle sizes that allows water through but retains water and minerals. Whether you have a clay soil or a sandy soil, the easiest way to get that fluffy, loose loam is to add compost.

Compost adds organic matter to feed the microbes in your soil, attracts beneficial earthworms, and improves drainage. You don’t want to be digging in your garden at this time of year, but you can spread some compost on the soil surface around perennials, shrubs, on the lawn and in the vegetable garden. Don’t walk in your beds now; they are wet and easily compacted, injuring soil structure.



Garden sulfur. Henry Homeyer photo.

So get your soil tested now, before the ground freezes solid. Come spring it takes three weeks or more to get test results from a soil test, as that’s when everyone else wants a test done, too. I recommend getting multiple soil tests: one for the vegetable garden, one for the flower beds, and from specialty locations like the lawn or blueberry patch. Contact your local University Extension Service, or go online.

Henry Homeyer is the author of four gardening books. He can be reached at henry.homeyer@comcast.net. His website is www.Gardening-Guy.com.

Concord. Call 225-0804 or visit www.classesforlife.com for a list.

• **COMPUTER WORKSHOPS** at Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, every Tuesday at 11 a.m. Sign up for a half hour of one-on-one instruction on basic computer skills. Sign-up is required for one of four time slots. Call 465-7721.

• **FREE COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL COURSES** on CD at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4603. Nashua Public Library cardholders can borrow any of 33 full-length college and high-school courses on CD and DVD covering a wide range of subjects from religion to astronomy to poetry.

• **FREE ESL CLASSES** offered by Adult Learner Services of Greater Derry. Morning classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry. Evening classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, 5 Hood Road, Derry. Call 432-1907 for next session dates, or e-mail rcatp@yahoo.com. See greaterderryliteracy.org.

• **FREE GED PREP CLASSES** offered by Adult Learner Services of Greater Derry, at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry. \$20 cash book deposit is required for registration. Call 432-1907 for next session dates, or e-mail rcatp@yahoo.com. See greaterderryliteracy.org.

• **LEARNING INSTITUTE OF NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE** offers non-credit, peer-led, peer-taught courses at a nominal fee to members, open to both retired and younger adults who enjoy learning for its own pleasure.

• **NASHUA ADULT LEARNING CENTER** (4 Lake St., Nashua, 882-9080, adultlearningcenter.org) offers classes in basic adult education, GED preparation, ESOL classes, adult learner services, computer and job training and community education.

• **OLLI COURSES** The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute provides classes, lectures and field trips for adults age 50+ through Granite State College, 513-1377, www.granite.edu. Membership costs \$40; costs vary for individual classes. Some classes are multi-week and some are one day only. Classes are on arts, literature, history, personal finance and more. See online schedule.

• **WADLEIGH MEMORIAL LIBRARY** Nashua St. in Milford, 673-2408, www.wadleighlibrary.org, offers one-day workshops for adults on various topics including computer skills and organization.

CRAFTS

Knitting

• **BEGINNERS AND BEYOND** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com). Classes are Tuesdays at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., 1 and 5:30 p.m., Thurs-

days at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (alternating weeks), Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (alternating 1st and 3rd Saturdays). Six weekly two-hour sessions are \$60. Call 505-4432.

• **BEYOND BEGINNER CROCHET** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com) on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. Beginners are welcome. Six weekly sessions for \$60. Call 505-4432.

• **BROOKLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY** (16 Main St., Brookline, 673-3330, brookline.nh.us) has a knitting, crocheting and cross-stitch group that meets every Monday at 6 p.m. The group is informal and drop-ins are welcome.

• **DROP-IN KNITTING CLUB** Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, every Tuesday, 3-4 p.m. Call 465-7721. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Compare patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips. Drop in, no sign-up required.

• **DROP-IN STITCHERS** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon, at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road (Route 102), Hudson. Work on knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching or any other needlework project with company, and pass the time while sharing ideas and techniques for future work. Call 886-6030.

• **THE ELEGANT EWE** (71 S. Main St., Concord, 226-0066, elegantewe.com) offers a variety of knitting classes and workshops as well as classes in felting and spinning.

• **FRIDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB** every Friday 6-10 p.m. at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com). Open project, no fee. Bring an existing project or start a new one. Call 505-4432.

• **HOOKESETT PUBLIC LIBRARY** (31 Mount Saint Marys Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org) hosts a learning-to-knit circle every Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the adult room of the library. Tea and coffee are served.

• **KELLEY LIBRARY** (234 Main St., Salem, 898-7064, www.kelleylibrary.org) has a knitting circle on Mondays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. The weekly gatherings are open to Salem knitters of all skill levels. Members answer questions, offer tips and share techniques. No registration is required. Crocheters are welcome, too.

• **KNIT 1, CROCHET 2** drop-in stitch-fests held at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, the second and fourth Mondays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a project and be inspired. Beginners will be able to get help selecting a project and the necessary supplies. There won’t be formal instruction, but members of the group help each other. Tea is served.

• **KNIT WITS** meets at the Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., Chester, the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Work on your craft, chat with others, and share your knowledge. This group is open to all

who like to sew, crochet, knit and/or stitch. For more information, contact the library at 887-3404.

• **KNITTING CLUB** every Tuesday at the Hollis Social Library, 3-4 p.m. in the library meeting room. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Have fun comparing patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips on stitches, sweaters and mittens. Drop in, no sign-up required.

• **KNITTING CLUB** every Friday, at 11 a.m., at West Manchester Library, 76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560. Both experienced and novice knitters are invited to attend. No registration required.

• **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2** Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) hosts a knitting group every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **NASHUA STITCH ‘N BITCH** meets Mondays 7-10 p.m. at the café in Borders, 281 DW Hwy in Nashua. Drop-ins welcome. See kat.prettypoosies.com/nashuasnb.

• **NEEDLES AND SHUTTLES** meets in The Fiber Studio, Foster Hill Road, Henniker. This informal group welcomes new and experienced knitters to share skills and conversation. Bring a knitting project. Call 428-7830.

• **NESMITH KNITTERS** meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Nesmith Library (8 Fellows Road, Windham, 432-7154, www.nesmithlibrary.org). All skills and ages welcome.

• **NIGHT AT THE SPOTTED SHEEP** is a free social evening every

Wed. 6:30-8:30 p.m. for knitters and crocheters to relax with a project and share with others at the Spotted Sheep Yarn Shoppe, 9 Church St., Goffstown, 660-1115, spottedsheeparnshoppe.com. New crafters welcome. Free.

• **SOCKS ON A 12” CIRCULAR NEEDLE** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com) on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. Call 505-4432.

• **ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL** in Nashua is looking for volunteers to help knit or crochet comfort shawls for patients who may be seriously ill, undergoing medical procedures, emotionally or physically traumatized, seeking hope and healing or grieving. The need for shawls is ongoing and frequently the supply becomes depleted. Contact the Spiritual Care Department at St. Joseph Hospital at 882-3000, ext. 67800.

You will receive more information and a brochure with both knitting and crocheting instructions.

• **YARN AND FIBER COMPANY** (11 Manchester Road, Derry, 505-4432, www.yarnandfiber.com) offers classes in knitting, as well as Friday night knitting club, and classes focused on a single piece.

Spinning

• **THE ELEGANT EWE** (71 South Main St., Concord, 226-0066, elegantewe.com) offers workshops in spinning.

• **KEARSARGE AREA WOOL SPINNERS** meet on the last Tuesday of every month, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Main Street Bookends (16 East Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com).

• **WADLEIGH MEMORIAL LIBRARY** (49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us) hosts the Southern NH Wool Spinners on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Beginners are always welcome. Contact Elizabeth at eeskipper@comcast.net.

DANCE

• **Arthur Murray Dance Studio**
99 Elm St., Manchester,
624-6857, learn todancetoday.com

• **Bliss Healing Arts Center LLC**
250 Commercial St. # 2007, 624-0080, blisshealing.com

• **Dance International Studio**
83 Hanover St., Manchester,
858-0162, importers-exporters.com/DIS.htm

• **Kathy Blake Dance Studios**
3 Northern Blvd. in Amherst,
673-3978, kathyblakedancesstudios.com

• **Krystal Ballroom Dance Studio**
352 S. Broadway, Salem,
870-9350, krystalballroom.com

• **Let's Dance Studio**
5 North Main St., Concord,
228-2800, letsdancen.com

• **Mill-A-Round Dance Center**
250 Commercial St., Manchester,
641-3880, millaround.com

• **N-Step Dance Center**
2626 Brown Ave Manchester, 03103
603-641-6787/nstepdance.com

• **Paper Moon Dance Center**
515 DW Hwy., Merrimack,
429-1100, papermoondance.com.

• **Queen City Ballroom**
21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com

• **Royal Palace Dance Studio**
167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com

• **Senior Activity Center**
70 Temple St., Nashua, 889-6155

• **Steppin' Out Dance Studio**
1201 Westford St., Lowell,
978-452-1111, steppinoutdance-lowell.com

Ballroom classes & dances

• **NEW YEAR'S DAY BALLROOM DANCE PARTY** at the Queen City Ballroom (21 Dow St. Manchester) on Sun., Jan. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. Singles and couples of all ages and dance levels welcome. Fruit, cheese, mini quiches and a decadent dessert buffet. Admission is \$15.00 per person if purchased before Dec. 31, \$20 per person if purchased at the door. Call 622-1500 or e-mail QnCity-Balrm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **ARGENTINE TANGO CLASS** Sundays from 3 to 3:45 p.m. (beginner) and 4 to 4:45 p.m. (intermediate) at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester. A practica will follow, from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Costs \$12 per afternoon, practica costs \$5. Singles and couples welcome. To register, contact Randy at 547-0402 or litangonh@gmail.com. Call 622-1500 or go to www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO** (99 Elm St., Manchester, 624-6857, arthurmurray.com) offers classes in ballroom and a variety of other styles. There are also classes specifically for wedding instruction. E-mail info@amdsnh.com.

• **BALLROOM PARTY** Sunday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Queen City Ballroom Dance Studio, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester. These parties are beginner-friendly with mixer dances and light refresh-

In the spotlight

White House photos

Acclaimed photographer Vicki Goldberg will share photos and stories from her new book, *The White House: The President's Home in Photographs and History*, on Friday, Dec. 30, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Rey Center's Curious George Cottage, 7 Noon Peak Road, in Waterville Valley. Her book features more than 200 photos from the 1840s to 2010. Books will be available for purchase and signing following the program, which is free and open to public. Contact the Rey Center at 236-3308 or programs@therey-center.org.

ments. Hardwood floor, recorded music, friendly crowd, smoke- and alcohol-free. Singles and couples welcome. Please bring a change of shoes to protect the dance floor. Start any week, and get free admission your first time. Costs \$9 per person. No pre-registration required. Call 622-1500 or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **BEGINNER BALLROOM SAMPLER** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester, every Tuesday night from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Learn the basics of 12 popular partner dances, such as waltz, foxtrot, hustle, swing, cha-cha and tango. Start any week. Classes are run on a rotating basis with each week focusing on two different dances. Costs \$5 per person per class. For new students, the first sampler class is free. Discounts available for multiple classes. No partner is required. No pre-registration required. Call 622-1500, e-mail QnCityBalrm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com for more information.

• **CHOREOGRAPHED BALLROOM LESSONS** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windmere Drive, Epsom, Thursdays at 7 p.m. Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **FOX TROT AND WALTZ** Royal Palace Dance Studio on Thursdays, 6:15-7 p.m. is beginner foxtrot and 7-7:45 p.m. is intermediate waltz. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **HUSTLE** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester, every Monday night. Beginner class from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. and intermediate class from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Costs \$10 per person per class. Singles and couples are welcome, as well as drop-ins. Call 622-1500, e-mail QnCityBalrm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com for more information.

• **KATHY BLAKE DANCE STUDIO** (3 Northern Blvd., Amherst, 673-3978, www.kathyblakedances.com) offers Latin, swing and ballroom dance classes as well as jazz, hip-hop, tap and other styles strictly for adults.

• **LET'S DANCE STUDIO** (5 Main St., Concord, 228-2800, letsdancen.com) has group classes, private lessons, practice sessions, monthly balls, workshops, and wedding dance instruction. Dances taught include tango, waltz, foxtrot, hustle, salsa, merengue, swing, cha-cha, and ballroom. Ballroom and Argentine dancing every Thurs., 8-10 p.m., cost is \$5.

• **LONDONDERRY DANCE ACADEMY** (21 Buttrick Road, 432-0032, www.londonderrydance.com) Ballet, pointe, hip-hop, tap, jazz, contemporary, creative movement, pre-dance, yoga, body conditioning, and adult ballet. Home of the New England Dance Ensemble,

and the Triple Threat Theater Camp.

• **MILL-A-ROUND DANCE CENTER** (250 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-3880, millaround.com), offers classes in line, round and square dancing.

• **NASHUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (505 Amherst St., Nashua, 882-7022, nashuacc.edu), offers classes for couple in ballroom, Latin, and waltz.

• **OPEN DANCE AND THEME BALL** hosted by Let's Dance Studio in Concord every Thurs., 8-10 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person per visit or advance payment \$45 for 3 months, with a free group class for a month. Parties and Balls are free for first-time visitors, current group students and all private students past and present.

• **PAPER MOON DANCE CENTER** (515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com), offers group and private lessons, social dance parties and wedding dance instruction. Classes are offered in smooth, rhythm, club, standard and Latin dances. Dance parties are offered every Sat.

• **PAPER MOON DANCE CENTER** (Studios in Merrimack, Nashua, Concord & Amherst, 429-1100, papermoondance.com). Beginner classes Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m.; \$50 for the month for unlimited group classes (includes all levels, 8 per week total).

• **PRACTICE PARTY** every Fri. at the Royal Palace Dance Studio (167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com), open to the public from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. Singles and couples are welcome.

• **ROYAL PALACE DANCE STUDIO** (167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com) offers group lessons in salsa, Latin, ballroom, rhythm, smooth dances, hip-hop, and aerobic dances along with private dance lessons.

• **SALSA** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester. Club-style salsa classes with Masacote Entertainment are taught on Wednesday nights. The 45-minute classes are \$45 per person for the month or \$15 per person drop-in: Level 1 Salsa Partnering at 6:00 pm, Level 1 Salsa Footwork at 6:45 pm, Level 2 Salsa Partnering at 6:45 pm, Level 2 Salsa Footwork at 7:30pm, Level 3 Salsa Footwork Challenge at 7:30 pm, and Level 3 Salsa Partnering at 8:15 pm. A new beginner series starts on the first Wednesday of every month. The Adult Performance Team meets at 9:00 pm. Private lessons available. Call 617-875-9006 or email sal-sanewhampshire@gmail.com; visit www.SalsaNewHampshire.com. For more information on Queen City Ballroom, call 603-622-1500 or email QnCityBalrm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **SAMBA AND TANGO** at the



Laura Levine (United States, born 1958). *Susanna Hoffs*, Boston, 1985, gelatin silver print, 18" x 24". Private collection. © Laura Levine. All rights reserved.

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Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays, intermediate samba from 7 to 7:45 p.m., and intermediate Tango from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.

- **SOCIAL DANCING** Paper Moon Dance Center sponsors dances at Kathy Blake Dance Studio (3 Northern Blvd, Amherst, 429-1100, www.papermoondance.com). Two rooms of ballroom, Latin & swing dancing the second & fourth Sat. of each month from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$10, includes light refreshments.
- **STEPPIN' OUT DANCE STUDIO** (1201 Westford St. Lowell, Mass., 452-1111, steppinoutdance-lowell.com) offers ballroom, swing, and salsa classes along with social dances and wedding dance instruction.
- **SWING DANCING** at the Royal Palace Dance Studio on Mondays at 7 p.m., visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.
- **TANGO CLASSES** at the Mariposa (26 Main St., in Peterborough, 924-4555, www.mariposamuseum.org) every Wed., 7-8:30 p.m.

Belly Dance Classes

- **BOW COMMUNITY BUILDING** (2 Knox Road, Bow) on Thursdays 5:45-6:45 p.m. \$54 (\$49 for residents). Call Tracey at 225-3774.
- **HOLISTIC SELF CARE CENTER** on Saturdays, noon-1 p.m. Four classes cost \$40, drop-in fee is \$12. Call 883-1490 and visit thehscenter.com.
- **PAPER MOON DANCE CENTER** (515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com) on Mondays at 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Cost is \$15 for drop-in, or \$45 for a month.
- **STYLING SOULS** 832 Elm St., Manchester on Sundays at 6 p.m., cost is \$12 per class. Visit www.stylingsouls.com.

Folk Classes and Dance

- **AFRICAN DANCE** and drumming workshop taught by Theo Martey on Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Murphy's Gym, 163 Lake Ave., Manchester. The Akwaaba Ensemble features West African drumming and dance. Cost is \$13; purchase a card for \$72 for six weeks. Drums provided if you don't have them. See www.akwaabaensemble.com or call 224-5582.
- **BEGINNERS LINE DANCING** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.
- **BORDER CITY SQUARES** offers square dance lessons every Mon., 7-9 p.m. First night is free. Dance is held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. See bordercitysquares.freesevers.com or call Cheryl Imbody at 438-2366.
- **CIRCLE 9 RANCH** (30 Windymere Drive, Epsom, 736-9656) hosts a dance lesson every Saturday at 7 p.m. through August. See www.circle9ranch.com.
- **HAPPY TIME SQUARES** meets every Wednesday in the Community Room of the Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield St., Rochester. Members range from 8 to 80, and anyone interested in learning about Contemporary Square Dance is encouraged to attend. See [www.happytimesquares.org](http://happytimesquares.org).
- **MILL CITY CONTRA DANCE** at the Waumbec Mill, 250 Commercial St., Manchester, the third Friday of every month. A beginners' workshop takes place at 7:30 p.m., while the dance goes from 8 to 11 p.m. No partner necessary; all dances taught. Costs \$8 for adults, \$5 for students

In the spotlight



Solstice on the beach

Here's a reason to trek north: celebrate the change of the seasons with a bonfire on the beach. A Winter Solstice Celebration will be held at Corcoran's Pond Beach in Waterville Valley on Thursday, Dec. 29, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join in on the bonfire that will celebrate the day that marks the return of the sun. The celebration will feature the telling of the solstice legend, singing and other solstice traditions. Hot cocoa, cider, and potluck deserts will be served and everyone is welcome. Suggested donation is \$5 per person.

(under 12 free). See tinyurl.com/Mill-City-Contra.

- **GREEK FOLK DANCING** Sunday evenings at the St. George Greek Orthodox Community Center in Manchester. Open to everyone. Call 497-4581.
- **LINE DANCING** on Mondays at the Nashua Activity Center, beginners 4:45-5:45 p.m., improvers 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$50, runs for eight weeks.
- **LINE DANCING** on Wednesdays at Campbell High School (Highlander Way, Litchfield), 7-8 p.m., contact Campbell HS Community Program at 546-0300.
- **LINE DANCING** on Thursdays at the Windham Senior Center (2 North Lowell Road, Windham), 9:45-10:45 a.m., for 4 weeks. Call the Windham Rec. Dept. at 965-1208.
- **LINE DANCING** on Mondays and Thursdays at the Nashua Sr. Center. Absolute Beginners-Beginners and Improver classes offered. Contact CJ at nhrgrizzlies@comcast.net for info, times and fee.
- **LINE DANCING LESSONS** at the Mill-a-Round Dance Center. Beginner, easy, intermediate, available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Cost is \$8. Visit www.millaround.com for specific dates and times.
- **RHYTHM LINE DANCING** at Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays 6:15-7 p.m. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.
- **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 215 Main St., Nashua (e-mail nashuaesd@comcast.net); and second and fourth Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 69 Washington St., Keene (call Bill Schenck, 352-6968). Visit rsedsboston.org for a complete list.
- **SQUARE DANCE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS** hosted by Heel & Toe Square Dance Club at the Cercle National Club, 550 Rockland Ave., Manchester. Couples, singles, and families are welcome. Call 497-3484 or 497-3414.
- **WORLD DANCE** on second and fourth Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Milford. All dances taught each night. Call 487-2732 or e-mail maryfloyd62@comcast.net.

Other

- **ADULT CLASSES** in tap and strength training at Allegro Dance Academy (100 Factory St., Nashua) allegrodance.com.
- **BEGINNER TAP** for ages 30+ at the Acting Loft, 516 Pine St., Manchester, Thursdays 7-7:45 p.m. Basic tap steps as well as short combinations and routines. Ongoing cost is \$12 per week. Drop-ins are welcome with 24 hours notice. Call 666-5999 to register or visit www.actinloft.org.

- **INTRODUCTION TO DANCE** "It's Never Too Late to Dance" for ages 30+ at the Acting Loft, 516 Pine St., Manchester, Thursdays 6-7 p.m. A low-impact dance class. All are welcome, whether you are a first-timer or want to brush up for auditions, feel more confident about your skills or just have fun. Ongoing cost is \$16 per week. Drop-ins are welcome with 24 hours notice. Call 666-5999 to register or visit www.actinloft.org.
- **NASHUA BALLET THEATRE DANCE COMPANY** (36 Arlington St., Nashua) offers ongoing classes from beginner to pro in ballet, pointe, jazz, modern and tap. Call 889-8408 or visit nbtde.com.
- **POLE AND EXOTIC DANCE** for women 18+ at Pole Bliss, 250 Commercial St. #2007, Manchester, 624-0080, polebliss.com. Four- and six-week sessions, intro taster classes, workshops and dance parties. Pole, chair, burlesque, ballet and belly dancing.
- **SACRED CIRCLE DANCE** at the Portsmouth Center for Yoga/Arts (9 Albany St., Portsmouth) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. No experience or partner needed. Admission is \$5.

HEALTH & WELLNESS HOSPITALS & CLINICS

- **Catholic Medical Center** 100 McGregor St., Manchester, 626-2626, catholicmedicalcenter.org
- **Concord Hospital** 250 Pleasant St., Concord, 225-2711, concordhospital.org
- **Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic** 100 Hitchcock Way, Manchester, 695-2500, dartmouth-hitchcock.org
- **Elliot Hospital** One Elliot Way, Manchester, 669-5300, elliithospital.org
- **Manchester Community Health Center** 145 Hollis Street., Manchester, 626-9500, mchc-nh.org
- **The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester** 401 Cypress St., Manchester, 668-4111, mhcgcm.org
- **NH Hospice and Palliative Care Organization** 125 Airport Road, Concord, 225-0900, nhhpc.org
- **Parkland Medical Center** One Parkland Drive, Derry, 432-1500, parklandmedicalcenter.com
- **Southern N.H. Medical Center** 8 Prospect St., Nashua, 577-2255, snhmc.org
- **St. Joseph Hospital** 172 Kinsley St., Nashua, 595-3168, stjosephhospital.com.
- **Visiting Nurse Association** 33 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 622-3781, manchestervna.org

Ste Marie Parish
378 Notre Dame Av.
Manchester, NH

Christmas Mass Schedule

Mass Times
December 24th at 4PM—6PM—12 midnight
December 25th 9:30AM

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OTHER

• **American Red Cross**
1800 Elm St., Manchester,
624-4307, redcrossmanchester.org
28 Concord St., Nashua,
889-6664, nashua.redcross.org.
2 Maitland St., Concord,
225-6697, concord.redcross.org
• **The Children’s Place and
Parent Education Center**
27 Burns Ave. in Concord, 224-
9920, thechildrensplacenh.org
• **The Compassionate Friends**
Greater Manchester Chapter
tcfinchester.org
• **Daniel Webster College**
20 University Dr., Nashua,
577-6625, dwc.edu.
• **Easter Seals NH**
555 Auburn St., 623-8863,
nh.easterseals.com
• **Full Spectrum Wellness LLC**
55 South Commercial St.,
Manchester, 296-0830,
fullspectrumwellness.com
• **Greater Manchester YMCA**
30 Mechanic St.,
623-3558, gmfyymca.org
• **Healing Hands Chiropractic**
25 Nashua Rd Suite F2 in
Londonderry, 434-3456
501 Riverway Place in Bedford,
647-0600; healinghandsnh.com
• **The Holistic Self Care Center**
12 Murphy Drive in Nashua,
883-1490, thehsccenter.com
• **Manchester Health
Department Community
Health Division**
1528 Elm St. in Manchester,
624-6466, manchesternh.gov
• **Nashua Division of Public
Health & Community Services**
18 Mulberry St. in Nashua,
589-4560, gonashua.com
• **Nashua Senior Center**
70 Temple St. In Nashua,
889-6155, nashuaseniorcenter.org
• **National Alliance for the
Mentally Ill (NAMI)**
1-800-242-6264, naminh.org
• **Naturopathic Clinic
of Concord**
46 S. Main St. in Concord, 228-
0407, concordnaturopathic.com
• **Pastoral Counseling Services**
2013 Elm St., Manchester, 627-
2702, pcs-nh.org
• **William B. Cashin Senior
Activity Center**
151 Douglas St. in Manchester,
624-6536, manchesternh.gov
• **Women Supporting Women**
111 Water St., Exeter, 772-0799,
wswwcenter.com
• **YWCA**
72 Concord St., Manchester,
625-5785, ywca.org

Workshops, seminars & events

• **TUCKER FREE LIBRARY** (31 Western Avenue Henniker) will host Henniker resident and new author Mary Macklin who will help plot fitness goals, so that behavioral changes and resolutions will last. Event takes place Tues., Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m. Call 428-3471.
• **THE GLASS IS HALF FULL** offers “positive thinking for a positive you” at the Hooksett Library (31 Mount Saint Marys Way, Hooksett) on Mon., Jan. 23, at 10 a.m. Find out how positive thinking brings inner peace, improved relationships, better health and satisfaction in daily affairs. Presented by a representative from Concord Regional Visiting Nurse Association. Register at hooksettlibrary.org.
• **DINNER WITH THE DOCS** St. Joseph Hospital, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua, 595-5300, is offering seven “Dinner with the Docs” classes this fall. Each class is \$10 and includes dinner. Classes run from 6 to 8 p.m.

To register, call 595-3168 or go to www.stjosephhospital.com/classes.
• **GROWING OLDER, STAYING WELL** program will discuss 10 most common health problems and what you can do about them on Mon., March 26, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., at Martin’s Point Health Care, 16 Corporate Drive, Portsmouth. Free event, registration required. Visit www.martinspoint.org

Blood drives

• **BLOOD DRIVE** on Thurs., Dec. 29, from 1 to 6 p.m. at Greenleaf Athletic Club (8 Greenleaf Woods Drive, Portsmouth). “Dorrie’s Drive” held in honor of Doreen Whitney La Tourette. Schedule appointment online at redcross-blood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Walk-ins also welcome.

Exercise/Fitness

• **CARDIO BOOTCAMP** RHT Martial Arts, 68 North Stark Hwy., Weare, 529-5425, www.nhkick.com.
• **DYNAMIC STRENGTH AND FITNESS** 115 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, 882-2348. Visit www.DynamicSC.com for more information.
• **FIT TO BE TONED** (200 Elm St., Manchester, 505-0042, www.fitto toned.com) offers a boot camp class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 a.m. It incorporates kick-boxing into a fitness routine including core training, squats, lunges and leg conditioning.
• **GET FIT NH BOOT CAMP** has two studios, 167 New Orchard Road, Epsom and 287 S. Main St., Concord. Offers classes Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays, including ladies-only classes. Sessions run for four consecutive weeks. To receive a free two-week tryout, e-mail getfitnh@gmail.com or call 344-2651 to reserve your spot, as space is limited. Visit www.getfitnhbootcamp.com.
• **GENTLE NIA** The Holistic Self Care Center, 12 Murphy Drive, Nashua, Mondays from 5:15 to 6 p.m. Nia is a sensory-based movement lifestyle that leads to health, wellness and fitness and draws from disciplines of the martial arts, dance arts and healing arts. It empowers people of all shapes and sizes by connecting the body, mind, emotions and spirit. To sign up, call 883-1490, e-mail info@thehsccenter.com, or go to www.thehsccenter.com.
• **HULA HOOPS** fitness classes with Nicole Vincent. E-mail flashbackhoops@comcast.net or go to www.flashbackhoops.com.
• **JAZZERCISE** at the Jazzercise Fitness Center at 259 Hanover St. in Manchester, 624-9122, manchjazz.com, including body sculpting classes and low- impact/high-intensity classes and more. Childcare is available at 9:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on weekdays.
• **JAZZERCISE** the Southern NH Jazzercise at 28 Lowell Road, Hudson, offers 33 weekly classes in Jazzercise and body sculpting. Contact Cindy Robinson at 880-0887 or cindyjazz1@comcast.net. For other locations, go to jazzercise.com or call 800-FIT-IS-IT.
• **NLP ELITE ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** Next Level Performance (31 South Commercial St., Manchester, www.nlpspeed.com) Offers classes strength, speed, agility, flexibility and injury prevention for athletes ages 11 and up on Mon., Wed., Thurs. and Fri. Call 627-7500.
• **NLP FITNESS BOOTCAMP** Next Level Performance (31 South Commercial St, Manchester, nlffitcamp.com) specific fitness instruction, nutritional coaching and training for improved quality of life. Thirty

classes a week. Call 627-7500 for class times and dates.

• **OUTDOOR FITNESS BOOT CAMP** (www.fitnessonwheels.com, 234-9669) Fitness on Wheels at the Goddard School, 12 Tsienneto Road, Derry. E-mail tricia@fitnessonwheels.com for session dates and times.
• **ON THE MOVE FITNESS & CONDITIONING** (289-3088, onthemovefit.net) offers an Extreme Fitness Boot Camp, a Women’s Fitness Boot Camp, Boot Camp Basic, and Team Fitness Boot Camp.
• **PERFECTFIT** (perfectfitonline.com, 641-8297) fitness consultant and personal fitness trainer Dave Soucy offers small group classes featuring circuit training with full-body movements.
• **PILATES MAT** at Yoga & More (505 W. Hollis St. Suite 106 Nashua, 889-1121, yogaandmorenh.com) on Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Learn the fundamentals of the Pilates technique as taught by founder Joseph Pilates. Drop-in fee is \$15.
• **CONCORD PILATES** (2 Pillsbury St., Ste #302, Concord, 369-0550, www.ConcordPilates.com) Classes are Monday at 5 p.m., Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday at 9 a.m., Thursday at 5:30 p.m., and Saturday at 10 a.m. First week costs \$20.
• **PILATES** by Deerfield Parks and Rec., Studio 59 at the George B. White Bldg., 8 Raymond Road, on Wed. and Fri. at 10 a.m. Visit townof-deerfieldnh.com or e-mail dfld-parks@townofdeerfield.com or call 463-8811 ext. 305.
• **PILATES** Martial Arts, 68 North Stark Hwy. in Weare. Call 529-5425.
• **PILATES** NH and Yoga, 76 Route 101A, Amherst. Classes will be held Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. and Mondays 8:15-9:15 a.m. To register call 562-7525.
• **RTH MARTIAL ARTS AND WELLNESS**, 68 North Stark, Hwy., Weare, 529-5425, offers health and wellness classes including zumba, yoga, pilates, yang tai chi chuan and more. Go to www.nhkick.com.
• **STRAFFORD COUNTY YMCA** fitness classes including kickboxing, cardio combo, and conditioning combo, at the Strafford County YMCA located at 63 Lowell St., Rochester. Contact Brent Diesel at 332-7334 or bdiesel@gmfymca.org.
• **TRADITIONAL NIA** The Holistic Self Care Center, 12 Murphy Drive, Nashua, Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. Nia is a sensory-based movement lifestyle that leads to health, wellness and fitness and draws from disciplines of the martial arts, dance arts and healing arts. It empowers people of all shapes and sizes by connecting the body, mind, emotions and spirit. To sign up, call 883-1490, e-mail info@thehsccenter.com, or go to www.thehsccenter.com.
• **TRAINING EFFECTS NH** (434-9281, trainingeffectsnh.com) in Londonderry offers group boot camp program to promote cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, flexibility and balance. Meets Friday at 9:30 a.m.
• **WELLNESS CENTER CLASSES** WellSpace New Hampshire, 633 Maple St., Hopkinton. Offering fitness classes of all levels, tai chi for arthritis and qigong, strength training, boot camp, yoga, personal training, mindful meditation, children’s dance classes and nutrition & weight loss programs. Call Jane Sullivan-Durand MD, founder of WellSpace NH at 746-4626 or SmiSarasvati@amisaravati@yahoo.com
• **YMCA** of Greater Manchester

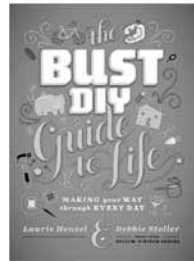
offers a wide variety of fitness classes. Visit www.manchesterymca.org or call 623-3558.

• **ZUMBA** Mon. and Thurs. at 5:30 p.m., Tues. at 5:45 p.m., first class free, at Royal Palace Dance Studio, 167 Elm St., Manchester, RoyalPalaceDance.com.
• **ZUMBA** McConnell Center Gym in Dover offers classes every Wed., from 7 to 8 p.m., Sat., from 9 to 10 a.m. and Sun., from 10 to 11 a.m. A six-week session costs \$30 for Dover residents (\$35 for non-residents). Drop-ins are also welcome. New classes start every six to seven weeks. Zumba is a fun and easy dance-fitness program designed for people of all ages and levels of fitness. Contact the Dover Rec Center at 516-6401 or the instructor, Diana Post, at 969-6413.
• **ZUMBA** Kaleo Coffee, 83 Main St., Dover, 343-4139, every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Diana Post is the instructor for this weekly class. Drop-in fee is \$5 per person.

Screenings

• **BLOOD PRESSURE** screenings free from parish nurses in Nashua. Drop in Mon., Wed., Fri., between 9 a.m. and noon at Milete Manor, 72 Vine St., Nashua, 598-2424, www.stjosephhospital.com.
• **BLOOD PRESSURE AND NURSE CONSULTS** in various faith communities throughout greater Manchester. Call the Catholic Medical Center’s Parish Nurse Program at 663-8004.
• **BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS** Catholic Medical Center’s Prime Time Program will offer a free screening on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Mill West Building, 195 McGregor St., Suite LL22 in Manchester. Walk-ins are welcome and other times are available by appointment. Call 663-6333.
• **BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING** every Wed. 9-11 a.m. at Southern NH Medical Center. No appointment needed; walk-ins welcome. Call 577-2002.
• **BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER** screenings at St. Joseph Hospital. Free for women age 18-64 that do not have health insurance and fall within necessary income guidelines. Call 882-3000 ext. 67188 for appointment.
• **HEARING** screenings second Wed. of each month from 9 a.m. to noon at the Roger Dionne MD Senior Center at St. Joseph Hospital. Free. To register, call 595-3722.
• **HEARING LOSS SCREENING** with the Avada Hearing Care Center of Merrimack on Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Register early, as space is limited. To register call Community Health Education at St. Joseph Hospital at 595-3722.
• **HEARING SCREENING** at Southern NH Medical Center. Certified audiologists from Southern NH Rehabilitation Center conduct free hearing screenings, open to anyone who has not had a hearing screening in the past year or who does not have a hearing aid(s). Please specify your date choice in the comment field when applying online at snhmc.org or call HEALTHMATCH at 577-2255.
• **HIV/STD CLINIC** at the Nashua Division of Public Health & Community Services on Mondays 1-3 p.m. and Thursdays 5-7 p.m. Suggested fee is \$25.
• **IMMUNIZATION CLINIC** at the Manchester Health Community Health Division on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. Immunizations are provided free of charge

In the spotlight



The Bust DIY Guide to Life, by Laurie Henzel & Debbie Stoller (2011, Stewart Tabori & Chang)

Still gift-hunting? *The Bust DIY Guide to Life* is perfect for that craft-inclined person in your life. But also, it works for cooks and cocktail fans. It has enough home stuff to make it relevant for someone striking out on their

own for the first time and it has some money advice to make it as relevant for the college kid as it is the recent graduate.

Behind the pink (the actual color and the general cuteness approach) and the relentless girl-positive-ness (both of which I more or less enjoy but which I can understand could become irritating), Bust the magazine offers an enjoyable alternative to the diet-and-beauty-product-heavy lady magazines. In one issue you might find a fun celebrity interview, a story about some female entrepreneurs, instructions on how to make a retro apron, a recipe for a casserole, some frank sex talk and advice, CD reviews and, yes, even a small column about beauty products in which interns report on the results of trying this hair gel or that lip balm. This book focuses on that apron, that casserole, as well as some advice on taxes, buying and caring for a bicycle and improving your résumé.

In the home-goods section, the crafts (custom duvet covers, office organizing tools, mugs, shower curtains) and ideas for fancying up your home on the cheap (record albums as art, stenciling your own wall paper, a wall decoration/lighting element made of push lights) are cute if a bit young — you could see them adding character (and helping to hide flaws) in a first apartment or even a teenager’s room. But the tips on how to regrout a shower, unclog a sink, deal with insects, clean green and handle most laundry situations are universally relevant. Ditto a gardening section that includes a discussion of house plants and (my personal favorite, as it is the quickest way to harvest rewards) container gardening. The sewing section can help even those who don’t have a sewing machine (or who refuse to take it out of the box) by making mending easier — explaining how to fix buttons, tears, zippers and even underwire bras. Master those and perhaps you’ll feel comfortable moving on to alterations, which are also explained.

I doubt I’ll be mixing up my own sugar-based exfoliant or trying to give myself Amy Winehouse hair (two of the items covered in the beauty section) but (1) I suppose you never know when you might get invited to a costume party and (2) while beauty-product recipes aren’t my thing, I have participated in a home-brewing experiment and a recipe in the food and drink section could help walk me through it again. Also, shucking clams, making mozzarella (seems like one of those things every foodie should try once), brewing ginger beer. The recipes include some solid party basics (fondue, cocktails, appetizers) and some general road maps for different kinds of get-togethers (barbecue, Sunday dinners, etc.) as well as some handy any-time recipes that have the feel of a friend’s favorite fall-back meal.

The book’s final chapter make it a good guide to approaching life — particularly life in your 20s and early 30s when you may be doing many things (buying a house, setting up a retirement fund, starting a small business) for the first time. Again, cutesiness aside, the book offers at least a starting point on, for example, 401ks and can get you thinking about what research you might want to do next.

Sure, it all comes in a pink book with girlie fonts, but *Bust DIY Guide to Life* is a solid primer (and refresher) on basic life skills.

— Amy Diaz

for children up to the age of 18. Some adult vaccines are available. Call 624-6466 for info. Bring a copy of your most current immunization record.
• **IMMUNIZATIONS** at the Nashua Division of Public Health & Commu-

nity Services on Tuesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$10.
• **LEAD SCREENINGS** at the Manchester Health Community Health Division, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All Manchester chil-

dren should receive a lead screening at one and two years of age. Older children, ages 36 to 72 months, who have not been screened previously should also receive a lead screening. Call 624-6466 to schedule an appointment.

• **MONTHLY PODIATRY CLINIC** Physicians from Nashua Podiatry Associates will be seeing patients during their free monthly podiatry clinic at The Roger Dionne Senior Center at St. Joseph Hospital. This clinic is for the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of the lower extremities and provides treatment for common foot problems, conditions associated with diabetes and other vascular diseases. Appointments are scheduled for third Tuesday of every month. Call 595-3722 to make an appointment.

• **TUBERCULOSIS SCREENINGS** at the Manchester Health Community Health Division on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clients must return within 48-72 hours after the test is done in order to have the test read. Cost is \$10.

• **VNA BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS** on Mondays at the Elliot Senior Health Center (136 Webster St., Manchester). No registration required. For more information and screening times call Elliot On-Call 663-4567.

• **WALK-IN HIV/STD CLINIC** at the Manchester Health Community Health Division on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Scheduled appointments are available Monday, 4-5 p.m. and Wednesday, 3-5 p.m. Individuals interested in testing only should use walk-in hours. Suggested fee is \$20. To schedule an appointment, call 624-6466.

Support groups

• **AICD** (automatic internal cardiac defibrillator) support group meets the first Friday of each month, 11 a.m.-noon, at Elliot Hospital.

• **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** (NH Area Assembly Office, 1330 Hooksett Road in Hooksett, 622-6967, www.nhaa.net) has hundreds of AA meetings in New Hampshire. The site lists daily meetings in Concord, Derry, Manchester, Milford, Nashua, Peterborough, Portsmouth and Salem. Meetings are scheduled on multiple days a week in Bedford, Amherst, Hillsborough, Henniker, Hooksett, Hudson, Londonderry, Merrimack and New Boston, and on at least one day a week in Candia, Brookline, Contoocook, Goffstown, Hollis and Weare.

• **ALZHEIMER'S CAFÉ** monthly social gathering for people diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia and their caregivers and family members, held at the Children's Museum of NH in Dover. This concept originated in the Netherlands and expanded throughout Europe as success stories circulated; this will be the first one east of New Mexico in the U.S. Attendees will gather in a supportive, non-clinical setting to chat, relax, enjoy refreshments and socialize. Reservations are not needed and there is no cost to attend, though donations will be accepted. Visit www.childrens-museum.org.

• **ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP** Help manage depression, anxiety and other emotional problems with this long-proven cognitive-behavioral method from non-profit Recovery International. The Recovery group meets every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the boardroom at The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, 401 Cypress St., Manchester. Call Marilyn for more info at 624-0086 or

In the spotlight



One star in particular

Learn the scientific history behind a holiday symbol. "The Mystery of the Star of Bethlehem" will be presented by retired Raytheon chemist Richard Willoughby on Friday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. Willoughby has researched the historical and biblical evidence surrounding the star's appearance. This Super Stellar Friday program is recommended for ages 8+; children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is \$9 (seniors/students \$8, children \$6). Please arrive at least one half hour before show time; no late seating or readmission to the theater is permitted.

e-mail nh.recovery@gmail.com.

• **BEREAVEMENT** Beacon Hospice (70 Commercial St., 4th Floor, in Concord, 224-2230, beaconhospice.com) holds an eight-week bereavement support group called Harbors of Hope, free and open to the public, Thursdays at 6 p.m. Contact Lisa Woods at 224-2230 or lwoods@beaconhospice.com to register.

• **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT** at Elliot Senior Health Center (138 Webster St., Manchester) second Tues. monthly from 11 a.m. to noon. Call 663-4567.

• **BLOOD CANCER** support group meets the second Monday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. at Concord Hospital. There is no meeting in August. For more information, call 230-6031.

• **BRAIN INJURY** support group meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Catholic Medical Center.

• **BREAST CANCER** Staying Connected for women with breast cancer meets the first Thursday of each month, 5 to 7 p.m., at Concord Hospital. Call 230-6031.

• **BREAST CANCER** support group meets the second Tues. of each month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., through Southern New Hampshire Medical Center. Call 577-2658 to register.

• **LIVING WITH CANCER** meets the first and third Mon., 4:30 to 6 p.m., at Concord Hospital; call 227-7000 ext. 3013.

• **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** meets the second and fourth Tues. of each month, 6 to 8 p.m., through Southern New Hampshire Medical Center. Call 880-1590 to register.

• **CANCER SURVIVORMENT SERIES** "Eat, Breathe, and Jump Your Way Into a Healthy Future" on four consecutive Tuesdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Registration is required; call 230-6031, located at the Payson Center for Cancer Care Conference Room on Floor 1.

• **CAPITAL GAY MEN** (www.cgminc.org, 229-1381) is a social and support group that meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Welsey United Church in Concord. For more information, call or e-mail cgminfo@cgminc.org.

• **CAREGIVER ACTION GROUP** meets weekly in the Concord area to discuss issues with family care giving. E-mail Donna Richardson at 10ofus@comcast.net or call 485-5911.

• **CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP** Elliot Senior Health Center (138 Webster St., Manchester). Meets first and third Tues. monthly, from 10 to 11 a.m. To register, call 663-4567.

• **CHRONIC PAIN SUPPORT**

GROUP meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 5 to 6:30 p.m. through Elliot Hospital; call Bess Mosley at 663-2767 to register.

• **CLIMB** (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery) is a support program provided by the oncology department at St. Joseph's Hospital, dedicated to the emotional support of children ages 6 to 12 who have parents or grandparents with cancer. The program uses conversation and art to help children identify and express complex feelings. For more information or to enroll a child, contact Charlotte Bell, MSW, at 880-3408.

• **CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS** (www.coda.org) holds weekly meetings in several area locations: Thurs., 5:45 p.m. at Child and Family Services in Manchester; Tues., 7 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church in Nashua; Tues., 7 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church in Nashua, and Sun., 7 p.m. at Keene Unitarian Church in Keene.

• **COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS** (www.compassionatefriends.org) is a group offering help to bereaved parents with chapters nationwide. In Manchester (www.tcfmanchester.org), meetings are at Brookside Congregational Church, 2013 Elm St., on the first Thurs. of each month at 6:30 p.m. Another group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Philip Greek Orthodox Church, 500 W. Hollis St., Nashua. For more information, e-mail tcfmcontact@tcfmanchester.org.

• **CONNECTION SUPPORT GROUP** a NAMI Connection support group, run by consumers based on the principle of recovery. All people with psychiatric disabilities are welcome. Meetings are every Friday evening from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at Manchester VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Rd. Manchester.

• **DIABETES TALK GROUP** meets the third Tues. of each month 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Concord Hospital; call 227-7101.

• **DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP** for adults meets the third Tues. of each month, 7 to 8:30 p.m., through Southern New Hampshire Medical Center.

• **DIABETES INSULIN PUMP** user support group for adults meets the third Thurs. of each month, 6-7 p.m., through Southern New Hampshire Medical Center.

• **DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP** meets the third Wed. of each month, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Beacon Landing (79 Sheep Davis Road, Concord). Different speaker at each meeting. RSVP at 774-8901 or 225-9694 ext. 230.

• **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** support groups (one in English, one in Spanish) meet Mon., 6-7 p.m., at the YWCA in Manchester. Registration

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073701

Start with new gas cap when trying to solve this mystery



Dear Tom and Ray:

I drive a 2005 Honda Accord. Recently, I started getting a “check fuel cap” message on my dash. When I checked it, it was properly tightened, but the message kept appearing. I went so far as to remove the cap completely to check and make sure everything looked normal, at which time I noticed that the metal flap that normally covers the opening of the tank was missing. How this happened is beyond me. How serious a problem is this? Am I going to explode driving down the highway, get 2 mpg, contribute

even more to global warming? Is this going to cost my life savings to fix? — Kate

TOM: The answers to your questions are no, no, maybe and no.

RAY: I’ve never seen the little flap fall off, but I suppose it’s possible. It’s just a flimsy, hinged piece of sheet metal to prevent backslash when you remove the gas cap to add fuel. And I had no idea the flap had any connection to the emissions system or the “check engine” light.

TOM: I don’t think it DOES have any connection. Nor would the flap do any harm if it happened to fall into the gas tank. It would just sit at the bottom of the tank forever. But we DO know that if your gas cap is faulty or not tightened completely, that WILL make the “check engine” light come on (or the “check gas cap” message in your car, Kate).

RAY: That’s because a poorly fitting or loose gas cap allows fuel vapors to escape into the atmosphere, which creates smog, which turns Los Angeles into Beijing.

TOM: And despite the mystery of the missing flap, you may just have a bad fuel cap. So here’s what I’d do. Go to the Honda dealer and buy a brand-new gas cap for \$25. Install it and see if the light goes off after a

few days. If it does, you just needed a gas cap, and the whole flap “flap” was just a distraction.

RAY: If the new cap doesn’t solve the problem, then you’ll need to have a mechanic look at it for you. Perhaps the top of the fuel filler neck got damaged somehow, and that’s preventing the cap from making a proper seal. Or maybe there’s something else preventing the fuel system from maintaining proper pressure.

TOM: But rather than start by paying \$150 for the dealer to scan your car and do a bunch of tests, start with a gas cap. It’s cheap. It’s easy to install yourself. And it may be all you need. Good luck, Kate.

Dear Tom and Ray:

My husband is 68, I am 72, and the following has been a lifelong argument. We have a small, graveled hill leading to our driveway. When it is icy, my husband insists on driving (or sliding) down the hill in neutral. Our vehicles are four-wheel drive and have gears 1 and 2 below drive. I say coasting down in neutral is wrong. I explain why I think so. He grew up on a farm, so he knows how things work, but he will not discuss it at all, and will (or can?) give no reason to back up his theory (what-

ever that is). I would love to know if I should be “freewheeling” down this hill instead of driving slowly down in gear. Thank you! — Carol, old gal in Iowa

TOM: Carol, the reason he can’t explain why it’s better to drive down an icy hill in neutral is because it isn’t better.

RAY: Keeping the car in gear helps you maintain control of the vehicle. When your car is in gear, the engine is connected to the wheels, and the engine acts as a brake on those wheels (especially if you use the lower gears, 2 or 1). That keeps the car’s speed under control without you having to step on the brakes.

TOM: If you step on the brakes on an icy hill, you tend to skid. And once you start skidding, you’re no longer in control of the vehicle.

RAY: I’m guessing that because your husband grew up on a farm, it was all flat land, and he didn’t get to do enough sledding as a kid, and he’s making up for it now. Can you hear him, under his breath, saying, “Wheeeeeee!”?

TOM: Other than that, I can’t imagine why he wants to go down an icy hill in neutral, Carol. I suppose if it’s first thing in the morning and the car is warming up, it might

be revving at 1,500 or 2,000 rpm, which might make him feel like the engine is pushing the car faster than he’s comfortable going.

RAY: But in that case, he should simply wait 90 seconds until the car is warmed up and the revs return to normal idle speed, and then go down the hill in gear.

TOM: Right. Keeping it in gear helps you in maintaining a reasonable speed. If you never let the car get out of control, you’ll never have to fight to get it back under control.

You want to buy a used car, but how do you find a good one? Tom and Ray can help! Order “How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows.” Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, “Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk.” Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack by e-mail by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com. (c) 2011 by Tom and Ray Magliozzi and Doug Berman. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

is not required; childcare is available.

- **DUAL DIAGNOSIS** Common Ground (a dual diagnosis support group) meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 6 -7:30 p.m., through Southern New Hampshire Medical Center. Call 577-5720 to register.
- **EMPTY CRADLE** support group at Souhegan Home & Hospice Care (24 N. River Road in Milford; 4 Bud Way, Suite 2, in Nashua; 673-3460; www.souheganhnc.org). Call for details.
- **FOOD ADDICTS IN RECOVERY ANONYMOUS** is an international recovery program which is based on the 12-Step Program of Alcoholics Anonymous. FA helps people suffering from food obsession, over-eating, under-eating, and bulimia. There are no dues, no fees, and no weigh-ins. Meeting times and locations: Mondays at 7 p.m., St. John’s Church, 101 Chapel St., Portsmouth, 778-1799 or 748-3238; Tuesdays at 7 p.m., South Church, 41 Central St., Andover, Mass., 654-9949; Thursdays at 7 p.m., Southern NH Medical Center, West Campus, 29 Northwest Blvd., Nashua, 321-0199 or 508-740-2004; Saturdays at 8 a.m., Christ Church, 41 Central St., Andover, Mass., 617-216+6468. For more information call World Service Office at 781-932-6300 or go to www.foodaddicts.org.
- **ForM** (www.myspace.com/codem-project) a group discussion and speaker series for gay/bisexual/questioning men in southern NH. Call Antonio Rodriguez at 595-8464 or 800-942-7437 ext. 53 or see the MySpace page for info on upcoming events.
- **FRIENDS OF RECOVERY-NEW HAMPSHIRE** 25 Lowell St., Suite 205, Manchester. Recovery Coaching program, F.A.S.T.E.R

- (Families Advocating Substance Treatment, Education and Recovery) parent peer support groups. FOR-NH does not have a truck or van and needs help moving donations. Call Lisa Peakes at 264-3107
- **GIFTED CHILDREN** Greater Manchester Alliance for the Gifted (www.allianceforthegifted.org) is a support and advocacy group for parents, guardians and educators of gifted and talented children in the Manchester area. The group meets at Barnes & Noble in Manchester on the second Sunday of each month at 6 p.m.
- **GRANITE STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING** (GSIL) Nashua Community Advocates Peer Support Group is for people interested in engaging in disability awareness, community issues and civic participation. People from Nashua and surrounding areas are invited to attend this free, ongoing Peer Support Group provided by Granite State Independent Living. Persons with disabilities, senior citizens and any others who would be interested in receiving support, empowerment, helpful resources and information as well as self-advocacy and independent living skills are welcome. The group is facilitated by a peer member who shares common concerns. Learn more at www.gsil.org, or call Mark Race, (800) 826-3700 ext. 1306.
- **GRIEF SUPPORT** Tuesdays at 10 a.m. or Wednesdays at 6 p.m. from the Holistic Self-Care Center. 12-week course, cost is \$100. You may pay \$12 per meeting. Pre-registration is required; call The Holistic Self Care Center at 883-1490 to register. Visit www.thehsccenter.com.
- **HEALTHY AT HOME** The ability to get out of the house, go shopping, socialize or run an errand is impor-

- tant for both emotional and physical well-being. All individuals, including those who may require wheelchair-accessible transportation, can request curb-to-curb service. Transportation is available weekdays, weekends, and even holidays by appointment. For those requiring assistance entering/exiting a vehicle a caregiver or family member rides free if space is available. Rates are affordable and all drivers are screened and insured. Transportation is available for events such as weddings, or to get to the airport, go shopping, visit the doctor, attend a sports event or watch a school performance. To learn more about this service, contact Linda at 595-4243. Services are supervised and directed by experienced staff. Healthy at Home is a member of the Partnership for Successful Living.
- **LADIES LUNCHEON** monthly support group for women living with metastatic breast cancer meets regularly through Elliot Hospital; call 633-2355 for dates.
- **LAUGHTER FOR NO REASON CLUB** aims to bring joy, health and world peace to all. The club meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Racquet Club Yoga room in Concord. Members enjoy playful, relaxing games and laughter meditation. No experience is necessary and there’s no fee. Contact the New England Center of Laughter at 224-5768 or center.of.laughter@gmail.com
- **LIFE AFTER LOSS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** meets at St. Joseph Hospital. Registration is required. Call 1-800-210-9000 ext. 2, or e-mail info@sjnhn.org.
- **LIVING BEYOND BREAST CANCER** group meets the second Wed. of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. through Elliot Hospital; call 663-

1804.

- **LIVING WITH CANCER** (for people with cancer and their families) meets the third Wed. of each month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. through Elliot Hospital; call 663-2355.
- **LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER** (a group for those receiving cancer treatments) meets the second Tues. of each month from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. through Elliot Hospital; call 471-4150.
- **LUPUS SUPPORT GROUP** meets once a month on the first Thursday of each month at Parkland Medical Center (One Parkland Drive, 432-1500, www.parklandmedicalcenter.com) in Derry. Family and friends are encouraged to attend. Supported by the Lupus Foundation of New England.
- **MENTAL ILLNESS —FAMILY SUPPORT** meeting conducted by the Nashua NAMI affiliate on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at St. Joseph School of Nursing Academic Building on Woodward Ave. Call Norma at 882-6771 or e-mail nashuanaminh@gmail.com or visit www.naminh.org.
- **MEN’S GRIEF DISCUSSION GROUP** at the Regional VNA Hospice House. The ongoing drop-in grief discussion group is designed to help men after a significant loss. Continental breakfast is provided. The group meets on the last Friday of the month except in November and December when it is held on the third Friday of the month. For info, contact Laurie Brooks at 224-4093 ext. 2826 or laurie.brooks@crvna.org.
- **NAMI NH** (National Alliance on Mental Illness New Hampshire, 15 Green St. in Concord, 225-5359, www.naminh.org) offers support groups for those with a mental illness as well as family members of those with a mental illness. Family mem-

- bers support groups (for families with adults suffering from a mental illness) usually meet twice a month; groups are in Concord, Derry, Manchester, Nashua, Peterborough and Salem. Parents Meeting the Challenge support groups (for parents with children under 18 suffering from a mental illness) meet once or twice a month in Concord, Manchester, Nashua and Rochester. See the website for times and other groups.
- **NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** (www.gsana.org) has meetings every day of the week in southern New Hampshire. Call 645-4777 for times and locations.
- **NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS MANCHESTER** meets the second Thurs. of each month for an educational meeting, and the fourth Thurs. of each month for a support meeting, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the CEO Office Building (Independence Place, 15 Constitution Drive, Bedford). It offers education, support, information exchange and advocacy for families and individuals coping with mental illness or emotional disorders. Call 472-3830 or 624-7849.
- **NEWLY DIAGNOSED BREAST CANCER** six-week educational support group meets frequently from 1:30 to 3 p.m., through Elliot Hospital; call 663-2355 for dates.
- **OCD** Obsessive-compulsive disorder support group meets Wednesdays 7-8 p.m. at Elliot Behavioral Health Services (445 Cypress St. Suite 8, Manchester); contact maryupholstrey@yahoo.com or Docval123@aol.com.
- **OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS** (www.oanewhampshire.org, 434-7578) holds weekly meetings in Concord, Salem, Nashua, Manchester,

- Hollis, Derry, Bedford and Amherst as well as in other regions of the state.
- **OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS** meets every Friday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Matthews Church, 5 N. Mast St., Goffstown (across from Sully’s). No registration needed. No dues, no weigh-ins, no diets. For other local meetings, check www.oa.org.
- **PAIN MANAGEMENT** for repetitive strain injuries and cumulative trauma disorders of the arm and hand. Meets 6:30-8 p.m. fourth Mondays at SNHMC. Cost \$15.
- **PARENTS WITH MENTALLY ILL CHILDREN** Free educational program for parents of severe emotionally disabled children. Visit www.naminh.org.
- **PARKINSON’S** group meets the third Wed. of each month from 3 to 4:30 p.m., through Elliot Hospital.
- **PFLAG-NH** (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays New Hampshire, www.pflagnh.org, 800-750-2524) has six New Hampshire chapters. The Concord chapter meets the third Sunday of the month from 3 to 5 p.m. in the conference room of NH Freedom to Marry on Low Street (downtown between Main and Storrs streets and between Cheers and Eagle Square). Call 428-3127.
- **PKD** (polycystic kidney disease) support group meets the first Mon. of the month, 7-8 p.m., at Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester. Call 634-0074 or e-mail pkdnhsg@hotmail.com for details.
- **PRE/POST-TRANSPLANT** support group meets the first Wed. of each month 7-9 p.m. through Southern New Hampshire Medical Center.
- **PROSTATE CANCER** Man to Man (a group for men with prostate cancer) meets the second Wednesday of each month, 5:30-7 p.m., at South-

ern New Hampshire Medical Center's Health & Education Building at 10 Prospect St., in Nashua. Visit www.snhmc.org.

• **PROSTATE CANCER** support group meets the fourth Mon. of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., through Elliot Hospital; call 663-4170.

• **QUIT SMOKING** support group is held the second Mon. of each month 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Center for Health Promotion (279 Pleasant St. in Concord); call 230-7300 to reserve.

• **REIKI CLASSES** are offered at the Reiki Healing Connection, 633 Isaac Frye Highway in Wilton. Reiki Master Libby Barnett, MSW teaches Reiki I and II, as well as master classes on a regular basis. For information and dates, see www.reikienergy.com or call 654-2787.

• **RESTLESS LEGS** group meets alternate months in Concord; call Fran at 225-2103 or e-mail granites-taterls@aol.com.

• **SEPARATED/DIVORCED PERSONS GROUP** meets Wednesdays, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall on Main St., in Belmont, starting Oct. 5. Call Ginny at 286-7066 or the parish secretary at 267-8174.

• **SEXUAL ASSAULT** support group meets at Concord Hospital; call the New Hampshire Help Line at 225-9000.

• **S.H.A.R.E.** (a group for parents who have experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death) meets the third Wed. of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. through Elliot Hospital.

• **SURVIVORS CIRCLE** is a confidential support group for UNH Manchester women and men who seek safe relationships. They learn about healthy boundaries, safety ideas, safe relationships, and support when relationships feel unsafe. Learn more at www.unhm.unh.edu.

• **STEPPING STONES** is a bereavement program for children and teens ages 5 to 18, offered through The VNA of Manchester and Southern NH Hospice program. The group is for those who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. The program will meet weekly for several weeks. See www.manchestervna.org or call 663-4005.

• **STUTTERING** National Stuttering Association (www.nsastutter.org) has meetings for adults and kids. An adults meeting is held the second Tue. of each month, 7 to 9 p.m. in Bedford; call Sandy Cullinan 490-8309 or e-mail slp1nh@comcast.net. An NSAKids Chapter for children age 5 to 12 (parents must also attend) meets the first Fri. of the month 4-5 p.m. in Auburn. Call or e-mail Patricia Wood (666-0904; pattiewood@comcast.net) or Sheryl Gottwald (672-1421; sgottw9893@aol.com). A chapter for teens meets the first Friday of the month 4-5 p.m. in Auburn; same contacts as the kids meeting.

• **THYROID CANCER GROUP** meets the third Sat. of each month at 10:30 a.m., Concord Hospital; call Carlene at 224-9923.

• **TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP** meets the fourth Wed. of each month, 7-8:30 p.m., at Concord Hospital; call Yoli at 224-7121 or e-mail concordtxgrp@yahoo.com.

• **WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN (WSW)** For leadership training, interesting topic groups, retreats, spiritual growth, business and personal development, fun groups, and more, located at 111 Water St., in Exeter, call 772-0799.

In the spotlight



Tech help

A computer doesn't last long before it becomes outdated, and so it's not uncommon for people to buy new laptops and computers, even if their old one works perfectly well. However, there are

those out there who don't have access to these machines at all. The Computer Technology Assistance Corps (711 Mast Road, Goffstown) is looking for businesses and individuals to donate retired computers to help low-income children, families and seniors. Requests for computers are extremely high, and inventory is very low right now. Call or email Steve Bothwick at 218-3078 or sbothwick@ctac-nh.org. If you have no old computers at home to donate, help the Computer Technology Assistance Corps raise funds to support low to no cost computers for low income families through an iPad Raffle. Visit www.ctac-nh.org.

LANGUAGE

• **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** community classes at 168 South River Road, Bedford. Also offers tutoring, private lessons, workshops and online classes. See www.teachmesignlanguage.com for more information.

• **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** at the Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua, begins Thurs., Oct. 13. This six-week class focuses on basic signing techniques and interpretation as well as deaf cultural awareness. The cost of the course is \$90 plus a book fee. Register at the Adult Learning Center, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. or call 882-9080 ext. 201.

• **CHINESE** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. Visit www.nashualibrary.org/directions.htm or call Carol at 589-4610.

• **CHINESE** language programs from the Derry Chinese School, including preschool, elementary, intermediate, teen and adult programs, in Derry. All classes are Saturday mornings at the Marion Gerrish Community Center (39 W. Broadway, Derry). Call 888-928-8470 and visit www.derrychinese-school.org.

• **CHINESE** classes at Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester, include conversational Chinese for young learners, as well as advanced study of Chinese language and literature. To register contact Ying Xia Peterson at 224-0164 or yxpeterson@comcast.net.

• **CHINESE MANDARIN** classes at New Hampshire Chinese School (in Concord at West Congregational Church, 499 North State St.; in Nashua at Girls Inc. of NH, 27 Burke St.; in Manchester, Belknap Hall at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road) on weeknights and Saturdays. Levels range from preschool to adult, beginner to advanced. Classes run year-round. Visit www.nhChineseSchool.org or call 557-3836.

• **ESPERANTO** international language courses at the American-Canadian Genealogical Society, 4 Elm St. in Manchester. Register by e-mail to Jack Stanton at cw3jackstan@mindspring.com.

• **FRENCH** Franco-American Centre (Manchester, 641-7114, facnh.com) offers adult and youth classes for beginner through advanced learners. Tuition is \$250 for 8 weeks. Most classes are 75 minutes. There is a mandatory yearly student Centre membership fee of \$35. To register,

call the Centre or e-mail Pauline Guimond Grant, French Classes Coordinator, at cpgrant@comcast.net.

• **FRENCH** Club Richelieu for French-speakers in Greater Nashua holds dinner meetings at 6 p.m. on second Wednesdays at the Radisson, 11 Tara Blvd. in Nashua. Call 889-7112.

• **GERMAN** NHGA German School offers classes at the Currier Museum for adult beginners with no knowledge of German, those with limited abilities, and those at advanced levels. Classes are conducted using German textbooks in an informal, speech-intensive manner, emphasizing German conversation, traditions and culture. Visit nhgerman.org.

• **GREEK** classes for adults (beginner & intermediate) meet Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral (650 Hanover St., Manchester). Reinforce and review your conversation & writing skills. Free. Call 497-4581.

• **HEBREW** at Congregation Betenu (5 Northern Blvd, Amherst, 886-1633, www.betenu.org). Hebrew language instruction; reading, writing, grammar, comprehension, conversational vocabulary, Biblical insights and more for ages 13 and up on Monday evenings. Classes are taught by veteran instructor, Rahel. For more information call 886-1633, email betenu@nii.net or visit www.betenu.org.

• **IRISH** Conradh na Gaeilge of New England, a nonprofit Irish language organization, offers low-cost Irish (Gaelic) language classes for all levels in Manchester. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons this fall, and are organized in 12-week sessions. For more information, go to www.gaeilge.org/manchester.html or call 508-797-9482.

• **ITALIAN** for beginners at the Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua. A 10-week course covering the basics of Italian conversation will begin Mon., Oct. 17. The cost of the course is \$120 plus a book fee. Register at the Adult Learning Center, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call 882-9080 ext. 201 for more information.

• **ITALIAN** conversation group at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St. Meets Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or 589-4610.

• **ITALIAN** Bedford Italian Cultural Society holds monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 7 p.m. at the Bedford Public Library on Meetinghouse Road. Parliamo Italiano

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chat sessions meet every Wednesday 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Bedford Public Library. Membership is \$15 per year. Contact Virginia at 472-2592 or visit BICS website at www.bics-nh.org.

- **LITHUANIAN** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Meets Saturdays at 10 a.m. Visit www.nashualibrary.org or call Carol at 589-4610.

- **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** All Learners, LLC, 15 Constitution Drive, Bedford, offers French and Spanish classes. Adult classes are on Tuesday evenings. Pre-registration is required. Call 986-7001 or e-mail office@all-learners.com.

- **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** Concord Community Education (170 Warren St., 225-0804, classes-forlife.com) regularly offers courses in languages.

- **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** "I Can Speak" language-learning software is available at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org) for Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Russian and Portuguese. The software consists of 20 to 40 hours of intro material using listening, speaking, reading and writing exercises.

- **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** at New England Language Center in Rochester. Conversational Spanish, German, Russian, French, Italian, Portuguese, Swahili and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes will start the week of Oct. 3. Classes are available in eight-week sessions or flexible, individual instruction.

- **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ONLINE** at Rodgers Memorial Library, Derry Road, Hudson. Mango Language Learning System teaches foreign language (Spanish, French, Italian, German, Japanese, Chinese, and Russian) and ESL conversational skills. Can visit library or log on from home through the library's website at www.rodgerslibrary.org. Call 886-6030.

- **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ONLINE** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford. Includes Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Haitian Creole, French, Irish and Greek. Free for library cardholders. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

- **SPANISH** conversation group at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua) meets Tuesday nights, at 7 p.m. Each meeting will have a theme, giving people with intermediate skills an opportunity to practice the language. Call Carol at 589-4610.

- **SPANISH CONVERSATION** Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua. Beginning and intermediate conversation classes offered. The cost of the course is \$90 plus a book fee. Call 598-8303 or visit www.adultlearningcenter.org.

MARKETING & BUSINESS

Career open calls & job fairs

- **JOB CORPS PROGRAM** is open to people ages 16 to 24 who are unemployed and need a job. Every Tuesday at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. there is an information session about how to obtain free job training, high school diploma/GED, driver's license and job placement assistance. Sessions take place at the Job Corps Office, 50 Bridge St., Suite 306, Manchester. For more information, call Don at 627-2891.

Marketing

- **FREE SMALL BUSINESS**

In the spotlight



Full moon hikes and more

Are you tired at how early it gets dark during the winter time? Try embracing it — outdoor activities can still be done under the night sky! Break out

into the bright white under the full moon to hear, see and smell what's going on in the winter woods on Saturday, Jan. 7, and Saturday, Feb. 4, on a Full Moon Winter Hike at the Beaver Brook Nature Center, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis. The program is intended for individuals who can walk for up to two hours at a moderate to moderately slow pace. Dress in layers. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes snowshoes or crampons. Call 465-7787 to register.

The Beaver Brook Nature Center also holds Winter Wonder Walks and Discoveries, which is a parent/child program for children ages 2 through 5. The program takes place on certain Mondays and Tuesdays starting Jan. 9 and continuing through Feb. 14. Session A is from 9 to 10 a.m., and Session B is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Each session includes a story to stir up curiosity, a winter craft, and an adventure in special places of Beaver Brook. Bring snow gear. The program fee is \$52 (plus \$6 per participating sibling). Call 465-7787.

RESOURCE CONSULTATIONS

will be offered at the New Hampshire Corporate Division, 25 Capitol St., 3rd floor, in Concord, N.H. Consultations will be offered Tues., Dec. 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and Thurs., Dec. 29, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. No appointment necessary.

- **MARKETING AND SALES FOR SMALL BUSINESS SCORE WORKSHOP** covers how to develop a strong marketing plan and build sales from experienced SCORE professionals on Tues., Jan 10, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the ABI Innovation Hub, 30 South Commercial St., Manchester. Requested donations is \$25 at the door or online, www.score-manchester.org. Call 666-7561. Veterans no charge.

- **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) CONSULTATIONS** Thursdays, at the NH Secretary of State Corporate Division, 25 Capitol St., 3rd floor, Concord. See www.sba.gov/nh or e-mail miguel.moralez@sba.gov for more information or times.

Networking

- **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS** hosted monthly by the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. Call 924-7234 for dates and locations.

- **CONCORD YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK (CYPN)** personal development initiative of the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce that offers networking, community involvement and social opportunities. Once a month, CYPN holds networking and enrichment events at various Concord venues where young professionals of all ages (generally 22-40s) can interact socially, build a contact base and exchange ideas. Visit www.concordypn.org or call the Chamber at 224-2508.

- **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS** Profile Chapter meets the first Wednesday of the month (Sept. through June) from 6 to 8 p.m. Meetings include networking, a light dinner, an educational program and a business meeting. Guests can attend the first two meetings for free; the meal is optional. An RSVP is appreciated for planning purposes. See www.profile-iaap.org.

- **MANCHESTER YOUNG PRO-**

FESSIONALS NETWORK holds social and business events monthly. Visit www.mypn.org or call 942-2485.

- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZERS** Brady-Sullivan Tower, 1750 Elm St., Manchester. Holds monthly meetings on third Tuesday of each month except July, 6-8 p.m. No charge for members; \$10 charge for guests. Visit

- **ONE MORE REFERRAL** is a business networking group. The Dover chapter meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at Café on the Corner.

- **STARTUPMHT MEETUP GROUP** is organized by the people at the abi Innovation Hub and is a group for entrepreneurs and professionals to gather for lunch, free wi-fi and to chat about what's new. Entrepreneurial, innovative and creative communities around greater Manchester are welcome to join Wednesdays at noon in the lobby of abi, and then head to Pochitos Mexican restaurant. Contact Jamie Coughlin at amie@abihub.org.

Personal finance

- **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS** at Millyard Technology Park, Pine Street Ext., Nashua. For programs in computer training (intro to the PC, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Outlook) call 594-8513 or e-mail jbarrett@snhs.org. For programs in financial literacy and educational goals (borrowing money, establishing good credit, and developing a personal budget plan) call Jennifer Spencer, 886-2866. For info about starting a small business and self-employment, call Sara Varela, 800-769-3482. For programs in ESL and learning conversational English and life skills, call 594-8513 or e-mail jbarrett@snhs.org.

- **MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (1066 Front St. in Manchester, 668-6706, www.manchestercommunitycollege.edu) offers classes in personal financial management. Call for availability.

- **UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION** (877-398-4769, extension.unh.edu) offers classes in personal finance and investing. See schedule on website.

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Make it work in 2012

New Hampshire has lots of business resources

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

This is your year, and whatever it is you yearn to do come 2012, be it to better your business, start a business, network more, or just to become an employee somewhere, New Hampshire will help you do it. The state contains a multitude of career, business, networking and entrepreneurial mentors who are eager to share their expertise.

Perhaps some of the most valuable business resources are those provided through New Hampshire's Small Business Association, which provides free consultations every Thursday at the Secretary of State Corporate Division Office (25 Capitol St., 3rd floor, Concord). It's a resource that many people have been reaching out to in recent years.

"When the economy started getting bad, we got a lot of phone calls," said Miguel Moralez, the Business Development Specialist at SBA and the Veterans Business Development Officer. "We help them learn how to market their business better, how to refinance, etc.," he said.

Upcoming consultations will take place on Thursday, Dec. 22, from 8:30 to 10 a.m., and Thursday, Dec. 29, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Consultation times change each month and are posted on www.sba.gov under "upcoming events." Call Miguel Moralez at 225-1601.

The U.S. Small Business Administration partners with the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center, SCORE and the

Women's Business Center. SBA's website, www.sba.gov, is great help to those looking for business or career advice. It includes free online training courses.

SCORE, one of SBA's affiliates, has 150 different courses online, from marketing to finance workshops, at score.org. It is a national network of nearly 14,000 entrepreneurs, business leaders and executives who volunteer as mentors to America's small businesses. The organization has helped more than 8.5 million entrepreneurs nationwide. Chapters in Laconia, Manchester, Concord, Nashua, Salem, Keene, Conway, Portsmouth and Lebanon also offer workshops and free consultations.

SCORE will be holding a workshop on marketing and sales for small businesses on Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the ABI Innovation Hub, 30 South Commercial St., Manchester. It's a place to network and discuss business options.

"Counselors come in to share their experiences, and it's not just a lecture; attendees will chip in as well," said Richard Clough, SCORE Chair in the Merrimack region. "People are asked to pull out their marketing problems, and the people at the workshop exchange ideas among the partnership," Cough said. It's requested that a \$25 donation be paid either at the door or online at www.score-manchester.org. Call 666-7561.

And while the economy hasn't been kind to a number of businesses in the area, it is actually not a bad time to take a chance and start

one up.

Success depends on preparation, Clough said, so it only makes sense to sit and talk with a SCORE counselor as soon as possible.

"We help people figure it out. If you have an interest in starting a business, just sit down with a SCORE counselor, and they'll help with all different aspects. I've met with someone 32 times to help with businesses and marketing. To start a business is fine, but we address the need, the niche, the financial backup — you need skills beyond the trade to run a successful business. And why not take advantage of us? It's free," Clough said.

The Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications is offering marketing help through a free Social Media class this winter on Wednesdays from Jan. 1 to Feb. 15. The class covers the advanced techniques of using social media as a business tool.

"It's a fun marketing tool to promote business, and it's a great way just to learn how to become more savvy in technology," said David Tirrell-Wysocki, the Nackey Loeb School of Communications director. Visit www.loebschool.org to learn more.

These courses, workshops and consultations are most useful to those who already have businesses, careers, or at least career plans. For unemployed folk between 16 and 20, the Job Corps Program offers informational sessions about how to obtain free job training, a high school diploma or GED, a driver's license and job placement assistance. Students can apply to Job Corps and learn the



The Job Corps program provides education and job-seeking tools to New Hampshire residents between age 16 and 20.

skills they need to become employees.

"It's primarily for students who, for some reason, haven't made it in the typical high school setting," said Don Flood, a director in the program. "We provide training for everything, from auto mechanics to welding, computers, medical trades, health occupations, EMT training, etc.," Flood said. Students who qualify for the program will spend time training and learning at a campus in one of the nine Job Corps locations throughout New England.

Those looking to finally enter the technology age in the 21st century might find it helpful to attend one of the computer basics classes held at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550). "Intro to Microsoft Word 2010" will be offered on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 2:30 p.m. in the Winchell Room, and "Intro the Internet" will be held on Tuesday, Feb 14, at 2:30 p.m.

Workshops

• **COMMUNICATION CLASSES** will be offered at the Nackey S. Loeb School in 2012. The six-week sessions will run from Wed., Jan. 11 to Wed., Feb. 15. News writing will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Advanced Social Media will take place from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Photoshop will take place from 5 to 6:30 p.m., and the First Amendment class will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Apply online at www.loebschool.org or by calling 627-0005. All classes are free except Photoshop, which requires a \$50 fee.

• **TAXES FOR SMALL BUSINESS SCORE WORKSHOP** informs of critical rules you need to know for your small business with down-to-earth advice from business professionals. Event takes place on Tues., Jan 17, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Eastpoint Executive Center, 99 Pine Hill Rd., Nashua. Requested is donations are \$25 at the door or online, www.score-manchester.org. Call 666-7561. Veterans no charge.

• **START YOUR OWN BUSINESS SCORE WORKSHOP** provides practical advice on starting, buying or franchising your own business on Tues., Jan 24, from 5:15 to 8:15 p.m. Workshop to take place at Derry Public Library, 64 East Broadway, Derry. Requested is donations are \$25 at the door or online, www.score-manchester.org. Call 666-7561. Veterans no charge.

• **INTRO TO MICROSOFT WORD 2010** will be offered at the Manchester Library (405 Pine St., Manchester) on Tues., Jan. 31, at 2:30 p.m. in the Winchell Room. Learn the

basics: how to save a file, copy, paste, set margins, and more. Space is limited. Sign up by calling the Library at 624-6550, ext. 320.

• **INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET** will be held at the Manchester Library (405 Pine St., Manchester) on Tues., Feb 14, at 2:30 p.m. Class will talk about basic terminology, how to navigate through the internet, how to search, things to watch out for, and how to create an email address. Laptops will be available for use during class. Space limited. Call the Library at 624-6550, ext. 320.

MUSEUMS & TOURS

• **Canterbury Shaker Village**
288 Shaker Road, Canterbury,
783-9511, shakers.org

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center**
2 Institute Dr., Concord, starhop.com, 271-7831

• **Currier Museum of Art**
150 Ash St., Manchester,
669-6144, currier.org

• **Laconia Historical & Museum Society**
in the Laconia Public Library at
695 Main St. in Laconia,
527-1278, laconiahistorical.org

• **Langer Place**
55 South Commercial St.,
Manchester, 626-4388,
langerplace.com

• **Lee Scouting Museum & Library**
571 Holt Ave. in Manchester,
669-8919, scoutingmuseum.org

• **Manchester City Hall**
One City Hall Plaza, off Hanover
St. in Manchester, 624-6455

• **Millyard Museum/Manchester**

Historic Association
200 Bedford St., 622-7531,
manchesterhistoric.org

• **New England Synthesizer Museum**
6 Vernon St., Nashua, 881-8587,
synthmuseum.com

• **New Hampshire Aviation Museum**
South Perimeter Road,
Manchester, 669-4820, nhahs.org

• **New Hampshire Snowmobile Association Museum**
Beaver Brook State Park Museum
Complex off Route 28,
Allenstown, 648-2304,
nhsnowmobilemuseum.com

• **Museum of N.H. Natural History**
6 Eagle Square in Concord,
228-6688, nhhistory.org

• **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
18 Highlawn Road, Warner,
456-2600, indianmuseum.org

• **Seacoast African American Cultural Center**
135 Daniel St. in Portsmouth,
430-6027, saacc-nh.org

• **SEE Science Center**
200 Bedford St., Manchester,
669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org

• **Speare Museum**
5 Abbott St., Nashua, 883-0015,
nashuahistoricalscociety.org

• **U.S. Marconi Museum**
14 N. Amherst St. in Bedford,
472-8312, marconiusa.org

Exhibits

• **"ALONG THE SILK ROAD"**
Mariposa Museum & World Culture
Center, 26 Main St., Peterborough,
924-4555, through early January. The
exhibit focuses on the Silk Road, the

great trade route that stretched from China to Turkey and into Europe. The exhibition emphasizes "the Stans," formerly republics of the Soviet Union and now independent countries, as well as Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. Programs will focus not only on the historical importance of the Silk Road and the great cultures that grew up along it but on the significance of this region today. See www.mariposamuseum.org.

• **"DAVID MCPHAIL: LOOKING BACK...AND BEYOND"**
Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, through December. Visitors to Gallery 6 will get a glimpse into McPhail's creative process. Children and adults will enjoy meeting Henry Bear, Waddles the Raccoon, Emily Duck, Budgie & Boo and the characters from McPhail's newest book, *Abandoned Lighthouse*. Visitors can view the exhibit during regular business hours, and no admission fee is required to visit only the gallery.

• **"SEASONS OF CHANGE" SEE**
Science Center, 50 Dow St., Manchester, 669-0400, through Jan. 8, 2012. This interactive exhibit provides visitors an opportunity to see how climate affects New England's seasonal traditions. Using graphics, multi-media displays, artifacts and interactive components, the exhibit addresses many areas of New England life including agriculture, forestry, fishing and recreation. Visitors of all ages are introduced to the challenges faced by farmers, fishermen and others. Visitors can engage in testing how ocean acidity levels affect sea life, observing how CO2 concentrations affect invasive species and more. Visit

www.see-sciencecenter.org.

• **SUMMERING IN RYE: OVER A CENTURY BY THE SEA**
Seacoast Science Center, 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, through Dec. 31. The exhibit chronicles the golden age of Rye's Victorian resort era of the mid-1800s to the 1960s. The images in this exhibition showcase the accommodations along the shores of Rye and the activities vacationers enjoyed during their stay.

• **A TREE'S MANY BRANCHES: THE LEGACY OF LACONIA'S JEWETT FAMILY**
Laconia Public Library, 695 Main St., Laconia, 524-4775, through December. This exhibit, presented by the Laconia Historical Society, accompanies the recent publication of *The Day Book of Jeremiah Smith Jewett*. This exhibit is a tribute to the family and will feature items from LHMS' large Jewett Collection. Go to www.LaconiaHistorical.org.

Ongoing

• **BOOTT DISCOVERY TRAIL**
Pick up work aprons and time cards at the museum entrance and, through hands-on activities, explore how raw cotton was made into finished cloth at Lowell National Historical Park.

• **CONVENTION MEMORABILIA DISPLAY**
in the Speare Museum of the Nashua Historical Society features nearly 250 political items drawn from the Republican National Conventions of 1988 in New Orleans and 2008 in Minneapolis-St. Paul. The exhibit will be open Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment some Saturdays. Call 883-0015.

• **GOVERNOR JOHN LANGDON HOUSE**
in Portsmouth, NH, is a national historic landmark featuring a

Georgian mansion where John Langdon resided. Open Friday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$6. Call 603-436-3205.

• **JOHN PAUL JONES HOUSE**
in Portsmouth, NH, features artifacts from the Portsmouth Peace Treaty of 1905 and from John Paul Jones, an American naval hero. Open 7 days a week 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$6. Call 603-436-8420.

• **LEGO MILLYARD PROJECT**
representing Manchester's downtown and Amoskeag Millyard as they might have looked circa 1900, on display at SEE Science Center (200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400) open weekdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., www.see-sciencecenter.org. This 55-to-1 scale model is the largest permanent LEGO installation at mini-figure scale in the world.

• **MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
holds open houses the 2nd weekend of each month, April through December, from 2 to 4 p.m. Upcoming Saturdays & Sundays: October 8 & 9; November 12 & 13; and December 10 & 11. The Historical Society is located in the Carey House at 6 Union Street. Admission is always free. For more information, go to www.milfordnhhistory.org.

• **MOFFATT-LADD HOUSE & GARDENS**
in Portsmouth, NH, is a national historic landmark. The house is furnished as it was in 1763. Tours go for an hour and are held Mon through Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. House and garden tours cost \$6. Call 603-436-8221 or go to www.moffattladd.org.

• **NEW ENGLAND SYNTHESIZER MUSEUM**
features vintage

synthesizers at 6 Vernon St., Nashua, 881-8587, synthmuseum.com. Call for appointment. E-mail dwilsynth@aol.com.

• **WARNER HOUSE** Located in Portsmouth, the Warner House is the earliest extant brick urban mansion in New England. The museum hours are Wednesday through Monday from noon to 4 p.m. and the admissions price is \$5. Call 603-436-5909 or go to www.warnerhouse.org.

• **WOODMAN INSTITUTE MUSEUM** in Dover, NH, features natural, local, and art history, including a 10-ft. polar bear and dinosaur bones. The museum is open Wednesday to Sunday 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., April to November. Admission is \$6. Call 603-742-1038 or go to www.woodmaninstituteuemuseum.org.

Tours

• **ANHEUSER-BUSCH BREWERY** 221 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 595-1202, budweisertours.com, offers free tours daily between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Free samples available to guests 21 and older.

• **CLYDESDALE CAMERA DAY** at Anheuser-Busch (221 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 595-1202, www.budweisertours.com) on the first Saturday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring a camera and pose for a photo with a world-famous Budweiser Clydesdale.

• **EDUCATIONAL FARM AT JOPPA HILL** (174 Joppa Hill Road, 472-4724, Bedford) is a non-profit organization operated exclusively for the charitable and educational purposes of increasing public awareness of sustainable agriculture. Farm tours are given daily to children and adults. Classes in sustainable organic agriculture and horsemanship lessons are available.

• **PORTSMOUTH BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL** in Portsmouth, NH, is a self-guided walking tour through neighborhoods where Portsmouth's black residents lived, worked, prayed and celebrated. Call 603-431-2768 or go to pbhtrail.org.

• **SEGWAY TOURS** Segway of Manchester, 42 Hanover St., Manchester, 218-8150, offers a variety of tours on a Segway PT. Currently all standard tours are offered at two tickets for \$99. Or choose the \$99 Ghost Hunting Tour, the \$79 Cemetery Tour or the \$69 Ghost Tour. Some tours are offered daily at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. this fall. E-mail info@SegwayofManchester.com or call 218-8150.

• **TOURS OF THE MUSIC HALL** will be held on the first Wednesday of every month through June, 5:30-6:45 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Visit www.themusic-hall.org or call 436-2400.

OVER 50

Events

• **CONCORD PARKS & RECREATION SENIOR PROGRAMS** is a drop-in program that meets at the West St Ward House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 1 pm. On Wed., Dec. 28, Community Dining (Meals on Wheels), Concord Parks and Recreation invites residents 55+. Suggested Donation is \$2.00. Rsvp by Dec. 21. Call 228-6630.

• **A MATTER OF BALANCE** or "Managing concerns about falls" begins Fri., Jan 13, at 12:30 p.m. The award-winning program is designed to teach people how to view falls and fear of falling as a controllable. Attendees will set realistic goals for increasing activity and change environment to reduce fall risk fac-

In the spotlight



Holiday theater camp

Future actors ages 6 to 18, can hone their skills at a holiday theater camp from Tuesday, Dec. 27, to Thursday, Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 30, from 4 to 8 p.m. (Public performance will be at 7 p.m.) Camp will take place in Heidi Welch's music room at the Hillsboro Deering high School (12 Hillcat Drive Hillsborough). Cost is \$30 for Hillsboro Deering and Washington residents and \$50 for non-residents. Email dunn.t@comcast.net or call 568-5102.

tors. Benefits adults 60 or older who worry about falls, have fallen in past, and interested in improving flexibility, balance and strength. Register at hooksettlibrary.org or at the library, 31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett. Call 485-6092.

Fitness/Sports & Rec

• **50-PLUS FITNESS** is offered at the Bow Community Building on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:05 a.m. and on Fridays at 9:45 a.m., with low-impact aerobics, strength and balance training and stretching. The cost is \$3.75 or less per class. For info, call Michele at 774-6160.

• **AEROBICS** combo step and low-impact classes are offered at the Bow Community Building on Mondays at 5:45 p.m. and on Wednesdays, at 9:10 a.m. Cost is \$4 a class or less. No step experience is necessary. Call Michele at 774-6160.

• **AQUA-MIX YMCA** (concordymca.org) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. This class aims to help participants maintain and improve range of motion, using a high-intensity water fitness program. All areas of the pool are used, so participants must be comfortable in deep and shallow water. This class is geared toward active adults. Cost is free to members, \$57 for nonmembers. Call 228-9622.

• **ARTHRITIS AQUATIC PROGRAM YMCA** (www.gmfymca.org) at the downtown branch (30 Mechanic St., 623-3558) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. and at the Goffstown branch (116 Goffstown Back Road, 497-4663) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. and on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6 p.m. This class is designed to guide participants through a series of exercises that will help improve flexibility, range of motion, joint mobility and muscular strength with the aid of the water's buoyancy and resistive properties. No swimming skills required. Free for members; for nonmembers the Manchester class is \$60 and the Goffstown class is \$40. Call either branch.

• **CENTENNIAL SENIOR CENTER** (West St. Ward House, 41 West St., in Concord, 228-6830, e-mail info@centennialseniorcenter.org, www.centennialcenter.org) offers stretching classes, yoga, Wii fitness, and bone builders class.

• **CHAIR EXERCISES** Nurse Program (663-8004). Classes are on Tuesdays at the Bedford Presbyterian Church (4 Church Road, Bedford) at 10:30 a.m., on Wednesdays at Blessed Sacrament Church (14 Elm St., Manchester) at 2 p.m. and on Thursdays at Parish of the Transfiguration (107 Alsace St., Manchester) and at St. Anthony Church (172 Belmont St., Manchester) at 9:30 a.m.

• **CONCORD PARKS & RECRE-**

ATION SENIOR PROGRAMS meets at the West Street Ward House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 1 pm. Tuesdays are saved for off site special events – please check our website for further detail. All seniors 50 and older are encouraged to drop by. There is no cost to join the Concord Senior Program. For more information, call 225-8690 or go to www.concordnh.gov.recreation.

• **50-PLUS NO-SWEAT EXERCISE CLASS** 9:45-10:45 a.m. at the Bow Community Building. Call 228-2222.

• **FIT OVER 50 YOGA** 145 S. Main St. in Manchester, 625-4000, www.yogabalance.info. A gentle yoga class designed to improve breathing, blood flow, body toning, strength and flexibility, every Thursday, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 for drop-ins.

• **LIMBER LIMBS YMCA** (www.gmfymca.org) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at their downtown Manchester Branch (30 Mechanic St., 623-3558) from 2:15 to 3 p.m. and at their Goffstown Branch (116 Goffstown Back Road, 497-4663) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:15 to 9 a.m. Cost is free for members; for nonmembers the Manchester class is \$60 and the Goffstown class is \$40. Call each branch.

• **SENIOR FITNESS** Racquet Club of Concord (10 Garvins Falls Road in Concord, 224-7787, www.rccofconcord.com) include yoga, Tai Chi, cardio, strength and in-water exercise. The club also holds coffee times, free blood pressure screenings, mystery lunches and more.

• **SENIOR FITNESS** Medical Center at William B. Cashin Senior Activity Center (151 Douglas St., Manchester) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Cost is \$15 per month. Registration is required. Call 626-2626.

• **SENIOR SOFTBALL** + senior softball at Wolfe Park in Manchester on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 11 a.m., weather permitting. No fees. Current players are between 55 and 80. No games are played, and no running required. It's just fielding and batting practice. Call Jessie Robert at 895-2474 or Dick Kiley at 625-6331.

• **SENIOR STRENGTH TRAINING YMCA** (concordymca.org) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m. Class is designed specifically for older adults with a primary goal of slowing the aging process. This is attained by increasing strength and endurance. This program instructs on proper techniques and progression. Contact Deb Acres, fitness director, at 228-9622 ext. 122. Cost is free to members, \$57 for nonmembers.

• **SILVER SNEAKERS** (www.silverversneakers.com) offers fitness programs for older adults. Search by zip

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Many thanks to Laconia Savings Bank for sponsoring this program. Watch for the opening of Laconia Savings Bank's new Manchester branch at 705 Hooksett Road!



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Dr. Gary Lindner, Dr. Lesleyann Splagounias,
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code to find participating fitness centers. YMCA in Manchester, Goffstown, Merrimack, Nashua and Concord are among the locations listed on the Web site offering SilverSneakers programming.

• **SOFTBALL** seniors (60+) is offered in Nashua. Call 889-7302.

• **TAI CHI** (55+) on Wednesdays at 9 a.m., at Parkhurst Place, 11 Veterans Road, Amherst. Call Lorraine at 249-1600.

• **TAI CHI FOR SENIORS** (beginners and intermediates) on Tuesday mornings at Elliott Hospital Senior Wellness Center. The program is for seniors in need of balance, flexibility and strength. Instructor Jim Winner. Contact Elliot Hospital at 663-4567.

• **WALKING PROGRAM** New Hampshire Medical Center. All walks start at 9 a.m.: on Mondays at the Whipple St entrance to Mine falls (off Simon St); on Wednesdays at Lincoln Park entrance to Mine Falls (off Coliseum Ave.) and on Fridays at Nashua River Rail Trail parking lot on Gilson Road. Call Nashua Parks and Rec at 589-3370 for a brochure.

• **WATER AEROBICS YMCA** (www.gmfymca.org) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at their downtown Manchester branch (30 Mechanic St., 623-3558) from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. and at their Goffstown branch (116 Goffstown Back Road, 497-4663) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. Free for members; for nonmembers the three-day-a-week class is \$60 and the two-day-a-week class is \$40. Call each branch.

• **WATER WALKING** Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. at the Concord YMCA (concordymca.org). An intense deep-water workout with no impact to muscles or joints. Build strength and endurance through 30 minutes of interval training plus stretching and toning. Participants must be comfortable in deep water. Cost is free to members and \$57 for nonmembers. Call 228-9622.

• **WATER WALKING** Manchester YMCA (www.gmfymca.org) on Tuesdays and Thursdays at their downtown Manchester branch (30 Mechanic St., 623-3558) from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. and at their Goffstown branch (116 Goffstown Back Road, 497-4663) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Cost is free for members; for nonmembers the Goffstown class is \$60 and the Manchester class is \$40. Call either branch.

• **WATERWORKS YMCA** (concordymca.org) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. Class consists of a steady aerobic segment followed by deep-water exercise for endurance and muscle toning through water resistance. Participants should be comfortable in deep water. Cost is free to members, \$57 for nonmembers. Call 228-9622.

• **THE WELLNESS CENTER** at 195 McGregor St., Manchester, has goal-oriented health and fitness programs. Key elements provided by health care professionals include exercise classes, stress management, weight loss, blood pressure control, cholesterol management, prevention or control of diabetes. Call 663-8000. Classes are ongoing.

• **YOGA FOR FITNESS** offered at the Bow Community Building on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. and on Fridays at 8:30 a.m. No experience necessary. Cost is \$5 a class. For info, call Michele at 774-6160.

Social activities

• **ART ALLIANCE OF NORTHERN NH** provides workshops for seniors. Call 837-2275 or eileen@aannh.org. Visit www.aannh.org.

• **BENTLEY COMMONS** (66 Hawthorne Drive, Bedford, www.bentley-commons.com/bedford, 644-2200) is an assisted living community offering activities and events. Visit their website for a full calendar of events.

• **CENTENNIAL SENIOR CENTER** (West St. Ward House, 41 West St., in Concord, 228-6830, info@centennialseniorcenter.org, www.centennialcenter.org.

org) offers meet and greet, card games, bingo and other activities. Open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9 a.m.-noon.

• **CONCORD SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS** offered by the City of Concord's recreation department (www.concord.com/recreation), usually at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers at 48 Airport Road in Concord. The center is open Mon., Wed. and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and offers a variety of activities including cards, crafts, bingo and dancing. The Sunset Club (for members 55 and older) meets twice a month for meals and speakers and occasionally day trips.

• **MUSIC CLASS** keyboard classes on Thursdays, one class at noon and another at 1 p.m., cost is \$15 for 6 weeks for members, \$20 for non-members. Contact Helen Hiller at Darrell's Music Hall at 886-1748.

• **NASHUA SENIOR CENTER** (70 Temple St. In Nashua, 889-6155, www.nashuaseniorcenter.org) offers activities for anyone 50 and older from the greater Nashua area (Amherst, Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimack, Milford and Nashua). Fitness-related activities include aerobics, Tai Chi, yoga, Pilates, walking, golf, ping pong, billiards and dancing as well as access to the senior center fitness room. Other activities include computers, photography, cards, needlework, chorus, bingo, movies, Spanish classes, cooking classes, art classes and more.

• **NH ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR CENTERS** offers links to a variety of information on senior services and senior centers at www.nhasc.org.

• **RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION** Tues. of each month at 195 McGregor St., Manchester. Call 391-1663 or e-mail EJH@Juno.com.

• **SENIOR BRIDGE CLUB** at Wadleigh Library (39 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, www.wadleigh.lib.nh.us) on Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-noon. New members welcome. Contact Loretta Aveni at 673-1448.

• **SUNSET CLUB** for Concord seniors meets at Green Street Community Center (39 Green St., Concord. Call 225-8690.

• **WILLIAM B. CASHIN SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER** (151 Douglas St. in Manchester, 624-6536, www.manchesternh.gov) offers a variety of activities and classes including crafts, fitness, dance, card games, Wii and trips. Call for info.

Learning

• **LINEC** Learning Institute on the Campus of New England College in Henniker offers classes, non-credit, peer-led, at a nominal fee, open to both retired and younger adults. See www.nec.edu, click on "Academics" and follow the LINEC links, or call 746-6212 for membership information.

• **OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE** (go to granite.edu and look for "OLLI" under quick links, 513-1377) offers classes for those over 50 in Manchester, Concord and the Seacoast area at Granite State College. A membership costs \$40 per year and cost per class varies. Some classes meet weekly; others are one-day workshops. Classes are on various topics including history, computers, arts, personal finance.

• **RISE INSTITUTE FOR SENIOR EDUCATION** (RISE, Rivier College, and 420 Main St., Nashua). E-mail RISE at rise@rivier.edu or call 897-8623. Registration forms are available at the Nashua Public Library, the Senior Center on Temple St., and the RISE Office on Clement St. at Rivier College.

NATURE & GARDENING

• **Amoskeag Fishways**
6 Fletcher St., Manchester,
626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org
• **Beaver Brook Association**
117 Ridge Road, Hollis,
465-7787, beaverbrook.org.
• **Charmingfare Farm**

In the spotlight



Shoah seminar

Raphael Colb, a veteran English teacher at Hebrew University, will lead a Shoah (Holocaust) seminar beginning Thursday, Jan. 12, at Congregation Betenu in Amherst (5 Northern Blvd.). Each weekly meeting will address one or two key questions raised by the Holocaust. Colb is a 2010 graduate of the course for educators at the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies.

There will be 10 meetings on Thursdays between 7 and 8:30 p.m. No pre-registration is required, but an RSVP is appreciated. Tentative dates for meetings are Jan 12, Jan. 19, Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23, March 1, March 15, and March 22. To RSVP contact Rahel at 554-1459, 886-1633 or betenu@nii.net. See www.jewishnh.org for more.

Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com
• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center**
2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com
• **Educational Farm at Joppa Hill**
174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org
• **Friends of Stark Park**
North River Road, Manchester, 645-6700, friendsofstarkpark.org
• **Londonderry Trailways**
PO Box 389, Londonderry, londonderrytrails.org
• **Manchester Historic Association**
129 Amherst St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org
• **Massabesic Audubon Center**
26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhudubon.org
• **McLane Center**
84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhudubon.org
• **Peabody Mill**
Environmental Center 66 Brook Rd, Amherst, 673-1141, pmec.org
• **Seacoast Science Center**
570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org
• **Society for the Protection of NH Forests**
224-9945, spnh.org
Animals/insects/plants

• **WINTER NATURE EXPLORATIONS: WILD SNOWMEN** will take place Wed., Dec. 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Curious George Cottage (7 Noon Peak Rd., Waterville Valley). Learn about ways that local wildlife survive during the winter time. Create wild snowmen with edible decorations, and provide local wild creatures with a snack. Intended for families with children over 3. Dress in warm layers and snowboots. Admission is \$4 per person or \$10 per family for members; \$7 per person and \$15 for families for non-members. Call 236-3308 or visit www.thereycenter.org.
• **WINTER NATURE EXPLORATIONS: ANIMAL TRACKS** will be held by the Rey Center at Curious George Cottage (7 Noon Peak Rd., Waterville Valley) on Fri., Dec. 30, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn about the tracks and signs that animals leave behind in the snow and in the forests. The group will find wildlife outside during the day-adventure, which is designed for adults and families with children over 5. Bring snowshoes or rent a pair in advance from the Nordic Center in Town Square. Dress in warm layers! Admission is \$4 per person or \$10 per family for members; \$7 per person or \$15 per family for non-members.

• **PIZZA PARTY WITH THE PAINTED TURTLE** at the Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Fri., Jan. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Participants will eat pizza and meet animals. Admission is \$15 per family, which includes pizza. Advanced registration required; Call 626-3474 or visit amoskeagfishways.org.

skeagfishways.org.

• **BIRD BANDING OPEN HOUSE** on Sat., Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness) allows visitors to drop in anytime during the morning to learn about common birds that are winter visitors, as well as why birds are banded. No charge. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

• **WINTER BIRDING EXCURSION** at the Squam lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness) on Sun., Jan. 22, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., is being held to search for the hardy bird species that spend their winters along the N.H. and Mass. seacoast. Led by Science Center Executive Director Ian MacLeod. Through the day, visit Seabrook Harbor, the Salisbury Beach State Reservation and Plum Island to search for ducks, hawks, eagles, owls and more. Register by calling 968-7194 or emailing info@nhnature.org. Admission is \$30/member or \$40/non-member. Visit www.nhnature.org.

• **WINTER IS FOR THE BIRDS!** is a presentation for pre-school students brought by the Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Wed., Jan. 25, from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 1 to 2 p.m. From the cardinal to the chickadee, lots of birds stay in New Hampshire during the winter time. Admission is \$5 per family, and advanced registration with payment is required. Call 626-3474 and visit amoskeagfishways.org.

• **VOLUNTEER TO HELP MANCHESTER'S WILDLIFE** at the Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) through January and February. Looking for wildlife monitoring for adults. No experience necessary. Call 626-3474.

Astronomy

• **THE MYSTERY OF THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM** presented by retired Raytheon chemist Richard Willoughby on Fri., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. This Super Stellar Friday program is recommended for ages 8+; children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission \$9 (seniors/students \$8, children \$6). Please arrive at least one half hour before show time; no late seating or readmission to the theater is permitted.

• **THE REALITY OF WORM HOLES IN SPACE** presented by Stephen Pergeim, Ph.D. candidate and researcher at UMass Boston's physics department, on Fri., Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. This Super Stellar Friday program is recommended for ages 8+; children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission \$9 (seniors/students \$8, children \$6). Please arrive at least one half hour before show time; no late seating or readmission to the theater is permitted.

Hiking, hikes & walks

• **FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE** on Sat., Jan. 7, and Sat., Feb. 4, from 7 to 9

p.m. at Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) for those who can walk for up to two hours at a moderate to moderately slow pace. Break out into the bright white world with a full moon in the winter night. Dress in layers. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes snowshoes or crampons. Call 465-7787 to register.

• **MLK DAY SNOWSHOE HIKE** at the Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) will take place on Mon., Jan. 16, from 10 to noon. Explore Wildlife Pond on Snowshoes. Cost is \$10 per person, including snowshoes and hot cocoa. Must be able to snowshoe for two hours on rolling terrain. Call 465-7787.

• **WINTER WILD WALKS** will be held Sat., Jan 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sun., Jan. 15, from 1 to 3 p.m., Sat., Jan 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Sun., Jan. 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness). Be prepared to snowshoe. Register by calling 968-7194 or emailing info@nhnature.org. Costs \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. Visit www.nhnature.org.

• **FRIDAY FITNESS HIKES** at the Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) is conducted at a moderately fast pace from 9 to 11 a.m. every Fri. through April 2012. Hikes meet at different locations to familiarize hikers with different trails on and off Beaver Brook property. Call 465-7787. Shoeshoes are provided when conditions are appropriate. Cost is \$50 to register for the season.

• **MONDAY FITNESS HIKES** at the Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) is conducted at a moderate pace from 9 to 11 a.m. every Mon. through April 2012. Hikes meet at different locations to familiarize hikers with different trails on and off Beaver Brook property. Call 465-7787. Shoeshoes are provided when conditions are appropriate. Cost is \$50 to register for the season.

Outdoors

• **FAMILY PROGRAMS ON CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, SNOWSHOEING, TUBING** at Great Glen Trails, Outdoor Center, PO Box 278, Gorham, open daily 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Ski more than six miles groomed terrain, snowshoe 25 miles. Visit www.GreatGlenTrails.com or call 466-2333.

• **INTRODUCTION TO FLY TYING** at the Manchester Library (405 Pine St., Manchester) on Sat., Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Winchell Room. NH Fishing Guide Jim Norton and certified "Let's Go Fishing" instructor Stan Jodziewicz will cover the tools, materials, threads and hooks required in fly tying, with hands-on sessions with the basic steps. Nymph, wet fly, streamer and dry fly samples. Registration required. Contact Steve Viggiano at sviggiano@manchesternh.gov or call 624-6550. Visit www.merrimacktu.org.

• **PRIMITIVE SKILLS WORKSHOP** is offered on the third weekend of every month at MyoFu An Dojo, 159 Savage Road, Milford, taught by a master tracker from Tom Brown School with 25 years of experience. Includes training in basic survival skills such as finding and making emergency shelter, making fire, purifying water and gathering food. Call 785-6440.

• **GPS RENTALS** every Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m., at Peabody Mill Environmental Center in Amherst. Cost is \$10.

• **MANCHESTER CEDAR**

In the spotlight



Bird banding

For the past 30 years, the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center has captured and banded birds at its on-site feeding station on the first weekend after New Year's. On Saturday, Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon, visitors can drop in to the Center at 23 Science Center Road in Holderness to learn about the process, about common birds who visit New Hampshire, and about why birds are banded. Adults must accompany children, and there is no charge to attend. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

SWAMP conservatory area on Hackett Hill Road in Manchester offers a 602-acre ecological preserve with established trails. Follow Hackett Hill Road to Countryside Boulevard and watch for the trailhead.

• **MCLANE CENTER** (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, newhampshireaudubon.org) offers trails for hiking and searching out wildlife.

• **WHITE PARK POND** (Washington and White streets in Concord, www.onconcord.com/recre) offers a tree trail —see a map online.

Science

• **EARTH CYCLES** is a home-school series on Thus., Jan. 5, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Squam lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness), which focus on cycles observed in the natural world, including the rock cycle, water cycle, life cycle, etc. One adult must attend with children at no cost. Each additional adult pays child fee. Register by calling 968-7194 or by emailing info@nature.org. Cost is \$9/member child, or \$11/non-member child. Visit www.nhnature.org.

• **SEE SCIENCE CENTER** a hands-on interactive learning center located in Manchester's Millyard at 200 Bedford St. Open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 per person ages 1 and up. See www.seesciencecenter.org.

SPORTS & RECREATION

• **Bow Recreation Department** 2 Knox Road, Bow, 228-2222, bowparksandrecreation.com

• **Candia Woods Golf Links** 313 South Rd., Candia, 483-2307, candiawoods.com

• **Concord Recreation Dept.** onconcord.com/recreation

• **Granite State Senior Games** 11 Stagecoach Way, Manchester, 622-9041, nhseniorgames.org

• **Granite State Wheelmen** 215 S. Broadway, Salem, 898-5479, granitestatewheelmen.org

• **McIntyre Ski Area** Kennard Road in Manchester, 622-6159, mcintyreskiarea.com

• **Mine Falls Park** Whipple Street in Nashua, Parks & Recreation, 589-3370

• **White Park Pond** Washington and White streets in Concord, onconcord.com/recreation

• **YMCA** 30 Mechanic St., Manchester, 623-3558, gmfyymca.org

6 Henry Clay Dr., Merrimack, 881-7778, nmymca.org

17 Prospect St., Nashua, 882-2011, nmymca.org

15 North State St., Concord, 228-9622, concordymca.org

Spectator sports

• **Manchester Freedom Football** 9 Notre Dame Ave., 627-7270, manchesterfreedom.com

• **Manchester Monarchs Hockey** Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., monarchshockey.com, 626-7825

• **NH Fisher Cats Baseball** 1 Line Drive, Manchester, 641-2005, nhfishercats.com

• **Verizon Wireless Arena** 555 Elm St., Manchester, 868-7300, verizonwirelessarena.com

Ice Skating

• **FREE OPEN SKATE PROGRAM** at the New Hampton School Lindsay Arena (1 Main St., New Hampton) Sundays, Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and Feb. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. Children under 8 must be accompanied at the rink by an adult, and all participants must wear helmets. Pre-registration is suggested; call 677-3445.

• **ICE SKATING LESSONS** for Session 2 through the Concord Rec. Dept. Register at White Park office, by mail or online. www.concordnh.gov/recreation.

• **PUBLIC SKATING** will be held at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Coliseum Sundays 2 to 4 p.m. and select days during the week. Visit www.manchesternh.gov/website/Departments/ParksandRecreation/ ParksandRecreation.

Runs/running/walks

• **FREEZE YOUR BUNS** in the five-race series hosted by the Gate City Striders on Jan. 9, Jan. 23, Feb. 20 and March 6 at 9 a.m. Admission is \$5 per race 19 and over, \$4 per race 15-18 and \$3 per race for kids under 14. Pre-registration for the series is \$20 for those 19 and over, \$15 for those 15-18 and \$12 for those under 15. Meet at the Conway Arena Register at 8 Riverside St. in Nashua. To register or find out more information at www.gatecity.org. Contact Leann and Trevor Ward at runfyb@gatecity.org.

Spectator

• **MANCHESTER MONARCHS** (Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000 minor-league affiliate of the L.A. Kings. See www.monarchshockey.com.) Upcoming home games include Mon., Dec. 26, at 7 p.m. vs. Providence; Sat., Dec. 31, vs. Providence; Wed., Jan. 4, vs. the Bridgeport Sound Tigers; and Fri., Jan. 13, vs. the Bridgeport Sound Tigers.

• **MANCHESTER MAYHEM** is the new roller derby team in Manchester. Composed of former Manch Vegas Rollar Girls, the new team is also looking to form a co-ed league and a junior (under 18) league. Recruiting will begin in Jan. Visit rollerderbymanchester.com/ to learn more about joining or volunteering for the new team.

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TECHIE

Privacy and property

Some things you can't upload; others you must

By John Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com



Depending on your perspective, it's either a great time or a terrible time for your online liberties. While a controversial anti-piracy bill makes its way through Congress, the public is also learning about a company that's had access to sensitive customer information. The good part about that is, well, at least we're finding out about it.

The first thing comes in two parts: the House version, the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA); and the Senate version, the Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act (PROTECT IP Act). Though their language differs, they both aim to prevent the unauthorized distribution of intellectual property, like music and movies, on the Internet. Perfectly legitimate purpose, but the way they go about that has many folks up in arms.

SOPA and PROTECT IP would require ad networks and payment processors to cut ties with any site breaking intellectual property laws as determined in a court order. The U.S. Department of Justice could also force search engines to remove the site from their listings, and Internet service providers could be told to redirect users away from infringing sites. All this would apply not just to pirated entertainment content, but things like counterfeit drugs and fake branded merchandise.

A court order, critics say, is not a trial, and effectively blotting out an entire site when only one small part might be infringing is draconian. YouTube, for example, hosts plenty of videos uploaded by users without the rights to that content. But it's also used by music, movie and television studios

to promote their work. An alternative is the recently introduced OPEN Act, which goes through the International Trade Commission instead of the Department of Justice. It can be seen and discussed at KeepTheWebOpen.com.

Meanwhile, a company called CarrierIQ is getting some uncomfortable attention. It advertises itself as "the leading provider of mobile intelligence solutions to the telecommunications industry," meaning it gathers and analyzes information on cell phones. It runs in the background and might not show up on a list of running apps, because it's often bundled into diagnostic software installed by your wireless carrier.

What can it log? Oh, text messages, your Web browsing history, every single key you press, that kind of thing. It might not necessarily be doing all that, but it has the capability. AT&T and Sprint admitted putting CarrierIQ software on at least some of their phones, though Sprint has since said it would be disabling it. They also said customers agreed to it in their privacy policies — those long documents in tiny legalese print that no one ever reads. It's all to improve network performance, they say.

Realistically, of course, it only makes sense that mobile providers would have access to the data that you send through their network. You'd expect them to pass it through without looking at it, though, so why even have the ability to collect it in a privacy-breaching manner?

Minnesota Senator Al Franken (yes, the one from *Saturday Night Live*) is spearheading the government's skeptical reaction to these revelations. He's also a co-sponsor of the PROTECT IP Act, so he and Internet populists might not see eye-to-eye on everything. Just like any other two people on the Internet.

There's never ever a single controversial thing at twitter.com/CitizenjaQ.

WIFI HOTSPOTS

NASHUA

- **A & E ROASTERY** 131 Route 101A, Unit 2, Amherst, 578-3338, aeroastery.com. Free.
- **BARNES & NOBLE** 235 DW Highway, 888-0533
- **CARRIAGE HOUSE** 230 Route 13, Brookline, 769-6004, carriagehousecoffee.com, free
- **CASTRO'S BACK ROOM** 182 Main St., 881-7703. Free.
- **COUNTRY TAVERN** 452 Amherst St 889-5871 countrytavern.org. Free.
- **CASSIDY'S GRILLE AND COFFEE HOUSE** 25 Route 101A, Amherst. Free.
- **MARTHA'S EXCHANGE** 185 Main St., 883-8781. Free.
- **MERRIMACK PUBLIC LIBRARY** 470 DW Highway Merrimack, 424-5021. Free
- **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 2 Court St., Nashua. nashualibrary.org/WiFi_FAQ.htm. Free.
- **NASHUA WIFI PROJECT** Main Street, Nashua. Free.
- **NATHANIEL'S** 537 Amherst

St. Free.

- **PANERA BREAD** 8 Spit Brook Rd., 891-2133 and 590 Amherst St., 821-6021, panerabread.com. Free.
- **THE PEDDLER'S DAUGHTER** 48 Main St., Nashua, 603-821-7535
- **SHORTY'S**, 328 Nashua Mall, Nashua, 882-4070, shortysmex.com. Free.
- **SKY MARKET** 383 E. Dunstable Rd., 888-7400. Free.

MANCHESTER

- **900 DEGREES** 50 Dow St., 641-0900.
- **AIRPORT DINER** 2280 Brown Ave., 623-5040. Free.
- **ARCADYA SALON & SPA** 989 Cilley Road, 603-644-1355, ArcadyaSalon.com.
- **BAJA'S CANTINA** 999 Elm St. Free.
- **BILLY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL** 34 Tarrytown Road, 622-3644, billyssportsbar.com. Free.
- **DERRYFIELD COUNTRY CLUB** 625 Mammoth Road, 669-0235. Free.

- **EXTRA TOUCH GOURMET CAFE** 4 Hawthorne Drive, Bedford, 488-6620.
- **HAROLD SQUARE** 226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-7144, www.harold-square.com. Free.
- **HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY** 1701B Hooksett Road, 485-6092. Free.
- **JEWELL & THE BEANSTALK** 797 Somerville St., 624-3709. Free.
- **JILLIAN'S** 50 Phillippe Cote St. Free.
- **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** 405 Pine St., 624-6500. Free.
- **NUTFIELD ALE & STEAKHOUSE** 55 John Devine Drive, 668-6110. Free for customers.
- **PANERA BREAD** 933 South Willow St, Manchester, 627-2443, and 7 Colby Ct., Bedford, 641-0500, panerabread.com. Free.
- **PATIO & PAVILION RESTAURANTS** Hilton Garden Inn, 101 S. Commercial St., 669-2222. Free.
- **PENUCHE'S GRILL** 96 Hanover St., 626-9830.



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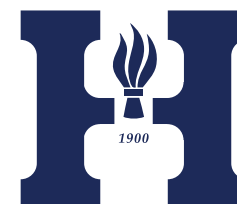
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Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

• **Still time to order holiday treats:** recent addition to the downtown Manchester food scene Lee's Cake & Pastry (79 Manchester St., 206-5925), is still accepting holiday orders — they specialize in cakes, cookies, croissants and tiramisu — and will be open until 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• **A new revolution:** Spoon Revolution Vegan Bistro, 55 S. Main St., Concord, 715-1785, spoonrev.com, has released its winter menu. The menu will run through February and feature Split Mung Dal with Curried Eggplant, Winter Kale, Spinach, Pear and Cranberry, Rajma and Pudla (Indian-style chili served with besan pancake), Masoor Kitchari (baked baby lentil and basmati brown rice casserole), Baked Stuffed Collard Greens with Tahini Sauce, Tapioca Maple Pudding and Ginger Molasses Cookies. All dishes are gluten-free. Check the website for daily specials.

• **New sweet spot opens:** Planet Marshmallow Dessert Café, 81 Hanover St., Manchester, planetmarshmallow.com, is now open for business. The café, which boasts a menu full of wine, coffees and desserts, is open Thursdays from 2:30 to 10 p.m., Fridays from 2:30 to 11 p.m., and Saturdays 4 to 11 p.m.

• **LaBelle starts a club and takes orders:** LaBelle Winery, 100 Chestnut Hill Road, Amherst, 828-2923, labellwinerynh.com, is now offering memberships to its Vineyard Club for \$95, with discounts for club members wishing to join for multiple years. Club members will receive a tag on a dedicated vine in the new vineyard, a members-only seasonal newsletter, one bottle of wine annually and invitations to members-only events. Visit the website to join. LaBelle has also recently partnered with Vinoshipper.com to make its products available to be shipped to Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia and Wyoming.

• **Beer for my horses:** The Anheuser-Busch Merrimack Brewery Tour Center, 221 DW Highway, Merrimack, 595-1202, budweisertours.com, will host a Camera Day on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. During the event guests will have an opportunity to pose for photos with the Budweiser Clydesdales. Brewery tours will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **Restaurant week in the Capitol City:** Concord Dines Out, organized by the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, will run from Sunday, Jan. 22, through Sunday, Jan. 29. Participating restaurants will offer \$10 prix-fixe lunches and \$20 prix-fixe dinners during the week-long dining event. Keep an eye on concordnhchamber.com for a list of participating eateries.

• **Become a Rhône master:** A Grape Affair in Portsmouth (433-0160, agrapeaffair.com) will offer an eight-week Rhône Master-Level certificate program through the French Wine Society. The course will include eight weeks

Continued on page 49

Eat and drink your way to New Year's

Local restaurants count down with specials and fun

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Local restaurants will open their doors on New Year's Eve to serve you what might just be the best meal you've had all year, and a little bit of fun (and champagne) to go with it.

• **Alan's of Boscawen**, 133 North Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com, will offer both its regular menu and a special menu, in addition to a New Year's buffet from 4 to 10 p.m. The Vintage Band will perform classic rock from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The buffet costs \$19.99 and there is no cover for the show. Reservations are required.

• Party like it's 1699 at **Alpine Grove**, 19 South Depot Road, Route 111A, Hollis, 882-9051, alpinegrove.com, which will host a medieval/Renaissance-themed bash from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. The night will feature a dinner buffet, champagne toast, cash bar, midnight snacks and a DJ. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes (costumes are not required to attend). The cost is \$40 per person. Reservations are required.

• **The Barley House**, 132 North Main St., Concord, 228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com, will offer its regular menu with specials. The restaurant will celebrate the New Year with a complimentary toast of Miller High Life (the champagne of beers). A DJ will perform.

• **Bedford Village Inn**, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com, will offer a four-course dinner for \$75 per person from 5 to 9:30 p.m. The menu will include an amuse, appetizers of Tartlet of Duck Confit, Tuna Tataki, Parmesan Gnocchi, Foie Gras Touchon, Seared Sea Scallops or BVI Lobster Bisque and an arugula or mesclun salad. Char Broiled Filet Mignon, Roasted Atlantic Salmon, Long Island Duck Breast, East Coast Cioppino, Blackened Ribeye, Grilled Veal Chop and Parmesan Risotto will serve as entree selections. Reservations are required. Special menus will also be served in the Tavern and Corks Wine Bar. (BVI will also serve a special "recovery menu" on Sunday, Jan. 1, at 11 a.m.)

• **Brookstone Grille**, 14 Route 111, Derry, 328-9255, brookstone-park.com, will be full of laughs as, for \$69.95 per person, guests will be treated to hors d'oeuvres, a dinner buffet and a comedy show hosted by Get Down Tonight

Entertainment and North Shore Comedy. The celebration will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. and reservations are required.

• **Colby Hill Inn**, 3 The Oaks St. Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com, will take reservations from 5 to 9 p.m. (no seatings at 7 p.m.) for a four-course prix-fixe dinner. Among the first course choices will be Flo-wrapped Brie and Lobster Pie and the salad course will feature a Cranberry Fontina Salad. Rack of Lamb and Grilled Swordfish will serve as two of five entree selections and cranberry sorbet will be among the four offered dessert choices. The dinner costs \$65 and reservations are required.

• **Cotton**, 75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com, will offer a three-course prix fixe meal from 5 to 10 p.m. Diners will be able to choose from four appetizer selections, six entrees and three desserts. The cost will range from \$35 to \$60 per person and is contingent on entree selection. Reservations are required.

• Dance and dine at **The Crowne Plaza**, Somerset Parkway, Nashua, 886-1200, cpnashua.com, from 6:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. The evening will begin with a welcome reception with champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. and will feature Hearty Rustic Antipasto, Garlic Herb Grilled Filet Mignon with Shallot Merlot Sauce paired with Prosciutto-Wrapped Shrimp-N-Scallop Brochette and a dessert buffet. "On Line" will perform. At midnight, guests will be treated to a champagne toast and continental breakfast buffet. The celebration is \$219 per person but room packages are also available. Reservations are required.

• **Divots on the Green** at the Intervale Country Club, 1491 Front St., Manchester, 623-1146, will host its first Rockin' New Year's Bash, starting at 6 p.m., with a happy hour. Dinner will be served from 7 to 8 p.m., and a breakfast buffet will be served at midnight. Tickets cost \$60 and include both meals, favors and a champagne toast. Headshop will perform. Call to order tickets.

• **Eden Restaurant and Lounge**, 2323 Brown Ave., Manchester, 249-3336, edenrestaurantandlounge.com, will serve its regular menu with a complimentary glass of champagne for each guest, from 5 to 11 p.m.

• **Fratello's**, 155 Dow St. Manchester, 641-6776, fratelli.com, will close 2011 by offering sta-



tionary and passed hors d'oeuvres, dinner buffet and sweets table. Guests will also be treated to a champagne toast with hand-dipped chocolate-covered strawberries, cash bar and party favors. Comedians Joey Carroll and Mark Scalia will perform, as will a DJ. Tickets cost \$75 and the evening begins at 7 p.m. Reservations and proper dress (no jeans) are required.

• **Gauchos Churrascaria**, 62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com, will serve its regular dinner menu, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. The restaurant will offer dinner and dancing, from 7:30 to midnight, for \$40. A complimentary champagne toast will be handed out right before the ball drops. There is a \$15 cover for dancing only. Reservations are recommended.

• **Granite State Restaurant & Bar** at The Centennial, 96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, graniterestaurant.com, will serve a four-course prix-fixe dinner for \$55. Prosciutto Wrapped Seared Jumbo Sea Scallop, Grilled Lamb Lollipops, Apple Cider Braised Chicken "Pot Pie," Yellowfin Tuna Tartar and Seared Foie Gras will serve as first-course options with Poached Pear and Candied Ginger Salad, Cucumber, Shaved Red Onion and Citrus Salad and Caramelized Onion Soup offered for the second course. Entree selections include Saffron and Vermouth Poached Salmon, Grilled Swordfish, Roasted Breast of Free Range Chicken, Bacon Wrapped Beef Tenderloin, Pomegranate Glazed Braised Beef Short Ribs. Tahitian Vanilla Bean

and Banana Bread Pudding, Raspberry Panna Cotta, Warm Spiced Molten Chocolate Cake and Egg Nog Cheesecake will be offered for dessert. Reservations are required.

• **Hanover Street Chophouse**, 149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com, will offer a special four-course dinner and a glass of champagne from 4:30 to 9 p.m. for \$87.50. From 10 p.m. to midnight, the Chophouse will celebrate with a performance by Siroteau, hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast. The cost is \$50. Reservations are required.

• **Harold Square**, 226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-7144, harold-square.com, will offer a special a la carte menu featuring such entrees as Lobster-stuffed Chicken, Prime Rib, Seafood Risotto and Pork Tenderloin. Dinner will be served from 4 to 9 p.m.

• **Mint Bistro**, 1105 Elm St., Manchester, 625-6468, mintbistro-nh.com, will serve a special menu from 4 to 10 p.m., and a DJ will spin from 9 p.m. until close. Party favors will be handed out to all guests. Reservations are required.

• **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar**, 212 Main St. Nashua, 595-3994, mtslocal.com, will offer its regular menu with specials until 10 p.m., and the bar area will be open until 10:30 p.m.

• **The Red Blazer**, 72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com, will serve its regular menu, with specials until

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The holidays are a time for family, friends, fun, festivities, and of course, FOOD! With the many temptations of cookies, pies and indulgent rich foods this season, try these 10 tips to help manage your weight at your next holiday gathering:

- 1.** Eat a snack before the party to curb your appetite and insure you won't show up hungry. An apple, a Dannon® yogurt cup or a small salad is a great light choice.
- 2.** Bring a low-fat holiday dish to the party. You will be happy knowing there is at least one dish you can enjoy without breaking your diet.
- 3.** Head to the fruit, vegetables, lean meat, and whole-grain crackers. Use small plates to help control portions sizes.
- 4.** Mingle more than you munch. Focus on family and friends, not food.
- 5.** Stand away from the food table. Hovering near the food often leads to more eating.
- 6.** Keep in mind that calories from drinks add up too. Try lighter versions of seasonal favorites, such as eggnog. Even hot beverages, such as flavored coffee or tea or spiced cider, can add a festive touch to the event.
- 7.** Keep your hands occupied with a low-calorie drink in one and a plate of low-fat goodies in the other to keep you from snatching from the food table.
- 8.** Chew gum after you finish eating. With fresh minty breath, you may be less likely to go back for seconds or thirds.
- 9.** Delay dessert. If you wait 20 to 30 minutes after eating healthy foods, your craving for sweets may be less than when you first arrived.
- 10.** If you are throwing the gathering, pick a time of day that does not revolve around a meal.
- 11.** Go ahead and say yes. If you can't stop thinking about Cathy's famous pecan pie, then enjoy a small slice after a well-balanced meal and refrain from seconds. One slice will not destroy your diet, but eating half the pie will ultimately lead to feelings of guilt and frustration, not to mention weight gain.

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• Happy holidays from the Bedford Hannaford! Watch this space for class and seminar schedules in 2012!

CONCORD

73 Fort Eddy Road
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
• Healthy Holiday Appetizers: Friday, Dec. 23, 3 to 6 p.m. No registration required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tour: Thursday, Dec. 22, 2 to 5 p.m. Call 228-2060 to register.

MANCHESTER/HOOKSETT

79 Bicentennial Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Nutrition Bootcamp for Parents and Kids: Wednesdays in January, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 644-2106 to register.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 644-2106 for info on next tour and to register.

LONDONDERRY

6 Hampton Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
• Healthy Holiday Appetizers: Friday, Dec. 23, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. No registration required.
• Happy holidays from the Londonderry Hannaford! Watch this space for class and seminar schedules in 2012!

MANCHESTER/EAST SIDE

859 Hanover St.
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Nutrition Bootcamp for Adults: Fridays in January, 11 a.m. to noon. Call 624-4442 to register.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 624-4442 for info on next tour and to register.

MANCHESTER/SOUTH

201 John Devine Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Newtrents' and New Trends Healthy Shopping Tour: Thursday, Jan. 5, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 626-4567 to register.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 626-4567 for info on next tour and to register.

NASHUA

175 Coliseum Avenue
• Happy New Year Healthy Party Tips: Saturday, Dec. 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. No registration required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 889-3700 for info on next tour and to register.

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FOOD

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• Seatings are available at 5, 5:30, 6, 8, 8:30 and 9 p.m. for New Year's dinner at **The Saffron Bistro**, 80 Main St., Nashua, 883-2100, thesaffronbistro.com. The four-course prix fixe menu will include an amuse of Whipped Goat Cheese in Filo and appetizers of Caramelized Sea Scallops, Honey & Orange Lamb Skewer, Mixed Organic Greens, Tuna Tartar, Lobster Johnny Cake and Vegetable Spanakopita. Pan Roasted Organic Chicken Provencal, Prosciutto Wrapped Chilean Sea Bass, Shrimp Carbonara, Black Angus Center Cut Filet and Black Cherry Glazed Duck will serve as entree selections. For dessert, guests may opt for Chocolate-Raspberry Truffles, Sicilian Lemon Sorbet or Butterscotch & Toffee Cheesecake. The cost is \$75, which includes a glass of Christalino Cava. Reservations are required.

• **Sunny's Table**, 11 Depot St., Concord, 225-8181, sunnystable.com, will serve a four-course prix fixe dinner, with prices ranging from \$35 to \$50. Reservations are recommended.

• **Surf Restaurant**, 207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com, will offer its regular menu with specials from 4 to 10 p.m.

• **Tandy's Top Shelf**, 1 Eagle Square, Concord, 856-7614, top-shelf.biz, is offering three options for guests to ring in the new year. The "Exclusive" package — \$90 per person, \$150 per couple — includes a five-course prix-fixe dinner, access to the restaurant's VIP room, a champagne toast, three complimentary cocktails, a finger food buffet, 20 raffle tickets and a complimentary brunch, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1. The VIP package — \$50 per person, \$75 per couple — includes a champagne toast, 10 raffle tickets, two complimentary cocktails, a finger food buffet and access to the VIP lounge. Take 4 and DJ Ric-ta will perform. General admission tickets are also available and cost \$15. Orders tickets at

top-shelf.biz.

• **Tuscan Kitchen**, 67 Main St., Salem, 952-4875, tuscan-kitchen.com, will celebrate Felice Anno Nuvo, from 3 to 10 p.m., with its regular menu and specials. An early New Year's toast will be held at 6 p.m., which is midnight in Italy. Reservations are accepted for parties of seven or more. Call-ahead seating is available.

• **Unums**, 49 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 821-6500, unums.com, will offer a four-course menu, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Appetizer options will include Smoked Salmon & Caviar, Steak Tartare and Oysters Anisette and salad selections will be Arugula and Mushroom and Mixed Greens with Goat Cheese Tostada. Stuffed Lobster and Herb-Crusted Prime Rib will serve as entree options. Brownie Delight and Cheesecake will be offered for dessert. The dinner costs \$160 per couple. Reservations are required.

• **XO on Elm**, 827 Elm St., Manchester, 560-7998, xoonelm.com, will serve its regular menu and chef specials. Reservations are required.

• For dinner, comedy and dancing, make a reservation at **The Yard**, 1211 South Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, theyardrestaurant.com. For \$75 per person, guests will be treated to a dinner buffet from 7 to 8:30 p.m., performances by North Shore Comedy and Groove Alliance and a midnight toast. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call for tickets.

• **Z Food and Drink**, 860 Elm St., Manchester, 629-9383, zfoodanddrink.com, will close out 2011 with its annual house party from 10 p.m. to midnight, complete with games, trivia, prizes, singalongs and its famous lego-building competition. The regular menu will be available, with specials.

• **Zampa**, 8 Exeter Road, Epping, 679-8772, zampa.com, will celebrate the new year with a five-course dinner, at 6 p.m. The dinner costs \$60 and reservations are required.

A vegan merry Christmas

Who needs eggnog when there's vegnog?

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Eating vegan this Christmas does not mean you will have to snack on the plate of carrots left out for Santa's reindeer. Enjoy a meatless, animal byproduct-free holiday feast of "turkey" seitan outlets with gravy, squash bisque, mashed potatoes, parsnips and brownies. Even eggnog has gone vegan.

The recipe for vegan eggnog, or vegnog as it is sometimes known, calls for coconut milk, which is high in saturated fat.

"Even though it's vegan, it's not a healthy food, but it is the holidays and we don't want to be total killjoys chomping on leafy green vegetables and nothing else," said Louisa Dell' Amico, a vegan resident of Northfield who taught a vegan holiday cooking class with a few like-minded community members last week. Making vegan eggnog can pose a challenge — many recipes for the non-vegan variety call for nearly a dozen eggs — but Dell' Amico has found a version in which the rich and creamy texture of the holiday beverage is made with frozen bananas blended with ripe avocado.

Seitan, a form of wheat gluten, can easily be made into the main course of your meal



Louisa Dell' Amico. Courtesy photo.

by adding chickpea flour, nutritional yeast, onion powder, cannellini beans, water and soy sauce, Dell' Amico said. After some kneading of the doughy blend, it needs to sit before it is sliced. Dell' Amico suggested basting the seitan in a boiling broth made of water, olive oil, spices, rosemary and onions.

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FOOD

“It’s better to start with the water being cold when you put the sliced seitan in it,” she said. “Sometimes wheat gluten can be tricky to work with and can expand too much and become spongy because of the heat.”

If seitan is prepared “just right” it has a very meaty flavor, Dell’ Amico said, “and when you add gravy to it, it’s very satisfying.”

“It takes more time to create a seitan dish than it would to just go out and buy a turkey, but the benefits are numerous,” she added. “There is no saturated fat or cholesterol, it’s lower in calories, kinder to the animals and has a much lower impact on the environment.”

Nutritional flakes, flour and oil are typically used as the base in vegan gravy. The flakes and flour put into the frying pan before the oil and water are added to help them develop a nutty flavor. It is the flour that helps the mixture thicken into gravy. A vegan cranberry sauce, shredded carrot salad with lemon-poppy dressing and raw kale salad with almond butter-lime-ginger dressing can also be made as holiday meal accompaniments.

You may not even notice that some of the dishes you will enjoy this holiday season could be vegan. Stuffing can easily be prepared without chicken broth, and a squash bisque can be made in an immersion blender with cashew cream in lieu of milk. To prepare mashed potatoes and parsnips vegan style, the butter needs to be replaced with soy-free margarine and the milk with either soy or almond milk.

Charles Latchis, of Spoon Revolution Vegan Bistro in Concord, suggested a few colorful vegan dishes to try during the holidays. A roasted beet and parsley salad, made with

chicory greens, makes a beautiful Christmas dish because it boasts bright reds and greens, Latchis said. Tarta de Polenta y Espinaca, a polenta and spinach layered casserole topped with red bell peppers, also bears the colors of the season and is a good holiday comfort food, he said.

For the dessert course, Lathis said ginger molasses cookies, which are also gluten-free, can be made with date molasses, ginger and brown flour. Dried fruit and nut balls rolled in coconut cardamom are another festive way to end a meal — “They look like something you could hang on the Christmas tree,” he said.

Another choice for vegans with a sweet tooth is vegan brownies, which are often made not with oil but with applesauce, Dell’ Amico said. She noted that even some non-vegan recipes call for the substitution.

“When you are looking at a healthy or low-fat recipe it’s common not to use oil,” she said, adding that using applesauce also results in moister brownies containing only a half gram of fat per serving.

And to make vegan brownies, you don’t have to leave out the most important ingredients: chocolate.

“Chocolate is vegan, there is no reason not to use chocolate,” Dell’ Amico said, noting that it is also easy to find semi-sweet vegan chocolate chips. “They’ve even found health benefits in unprocessed cocoa.”

As brownies also have sugar in them, Dell’ Amico recommends serving them in small portions “so people can have something that’s sweet, or have a food that is festive for the season, but not have to gain 10 pounds that they will regret later.”

Vegan “Turkey” Seitan Cutlets

Modified by Louisa Dell’ Amico from vegandad.blogspot.com

Dry mix:

2 cups vital wheat gluten flour
½ cup chickpea flour
2/3 cup nutritional yeast flakes
3 teaspoons onion powder
2 teaspoons rosemary
1 teaspoon thyme
1 teaspoon sage

Wet mix:

cannellini beans, 12 oz., rinsed and drained
1½ cup vegetable broth
¼ cup tamari or soy sauce
½ Tablespoon olive oil
2 medium garlic cloves

Basting broth:

6 cups cold water
½ cup tamari or soy sauce
1 medium onion, chopped
2 Tablespoons olive oil

Directions:

Grind the needle-like rosemary “leaves” in a spice grinder. In a large bowl, mix togeth-

er dry ingredients. Mix wet ingredients in a blender until smooth. Gradually pour liquid mixture into dry mixture, then stir with a wooden spoon until it’s a dough-like consistency. If the dough seems too moist, let it rest for 15 minutes, giving the gluten flour time to firm up and absorb the liquid. If too dry, add a little water. Sprinkle a little flour on a cutting board or countertop, knead the dough for 6 to 8 minutes and then set aside for 30 to 60 min. Place all basting broth ingredients into a large pot. (Tip: seitan is less spongy if it’s placed in cold broth first and then brought to a boil.) Place pot in fridge for 20 minutes. Knead dough for another 5 minutes. Roll the dough into a log about 2½” in diameter (it will double in size when cooked). Using a wet, serrated knife, slice the log into ½-inch pieces and place into cold broth one by one. Return to fridge for 1 to 2 hours. Turn the heat to medium/high until it comes to a boil. Then reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 3 to 4 hours. Turn pieces a couple times during simmering time.

Food Listings Winter markets

• **CONCORD** at Cole Gardens, 430 Loudon Road in Concord, some Saturdays starting with Sat., Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See www.colegardens.com.
• **DERRY** at the Derry Recreation/Vets Hall, 31 W Broadway, Derry, the first and third Sundays November through March from noon to 4 p.m. See www.derry-nh.org.

• **EPPING** 16 Main St. in Epping, the first Friday of each month from November through April, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Call 642-8747.
• **HOOKSETT** at White Birch Brewing, 1339 Hooksett Road in Hooksett, on Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.
• **MILFORD** at Milford Town Hall Auditorium, 1 Union Square in Milford, on some Saturdays per month through May from 9 a.m.

to noon: Jan. 7, Jan. 21; Feb. 18; March 3; March 17; April 14, April 21; May 5, and May 9. See www.milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.
• **NEWMARKET** at Carpenter’s Olde English Greenhouse, 220 S. Main St. in Newmarket, the third Saturday of the month from October to April.
• **RAYMOND** at Lamprey River School, 33 Old Manchester Road, on Saturdays, Jan. 21, Feb. 18 and

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Reserve your pickup time for Saturday, December 24 when you place your order.

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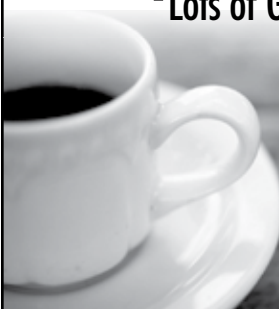
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FOOD

Bio Fuel pops with caffeine

Snack invented in Durham

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

The inside of Amanda and Matthew Fitch's Durham home is decked out in Christmas décor. With seasonal scented candles burning, it even smells like Christmas. That is, until you turn in to the dining room and are greeted by the familiar scent of popcorn. And it's not just any popcorn.

The Fitches began producing Bio Fuel, a caffeinated popcorn, in 2008 at a time when the couple, parents of two young boys, found themselves working opposite schedules, Matthew working 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Amanda working second shift as a nurse. Tired of not seeing each other as much as they would like, the couple tried to come up with a business idea that would allow for Amanda Fitch to work from home.

Amanda Fitch said her husband had been drinking a lot of java around the time when the pair stood over their kitchen stove trying to creating a unique food product.

"We were tossing around food ideas and decided that popcorn was easy," she said. "There wasn't too much involved and it was inexpensive. Then we came up with this."

The name for the pick-me-up popcorn was suggested by Fitch's cousin.

"Biofuel is fuel from corn," Fitch said. "Our popcorn gives you energy. It's a play on words."

The couple launched their business by selling their popcorn with a punch at farmers markets and local fairs and now only sell their product online. They have taken orders from as far away as Australia and the United Kingdom. Bio Fuel has also been featured on *Today* and AOL News.

"We did well at the farmers makers and started thinking, 'well, maybe we have something here,'" Fitch said. The pair recently shifted their focus to getting their product on store shelves and recently picked up their first distributor. "We're just getting our foot in the door," Fitch said, adding that they would especially like for their products to be sold at New Hampshire Made stores and state liquor stores.

"I never thought I would be making popcorn for a living, but it works out great ... the only downside is that it's in my dining room," Fitch said. Another priority for the couple is transferring their production to a commercial facility with a small retail space. "We would like to keep the business on the seacoast," Fitch said, adding that a retail space would eliminate the need to charge shipping on orders.

Fitch said Bio Fuel would be an unexpected gift to give during the holiday season, especially for Yankee Swaps: "No one else



Amanda Fitch sprinkles a blend of salt, sugar and caffeine over a fresh batch of popcorn. Angel Roy photo.

would show up with a bag of caffeinated popcorn," Fitch said. "It's definitely original." The popcorn is also a good thing to include in care packages to college students, she noted.

Bio Fuel popcorn, which bears a tagline of "Sweet, Salty & Addictively Delicious," is made in a commercial-sized popping machine that the couple purchased after receiving an order too large for the six-ounce popper they started out with.

"It's the same one they have at Gillette [Stadium]," Fitch said adding that the large dual popping machine "got the job done real quick." The new machine can pop 24 bags at a time. One 3½-ounce bag of popcorn contains about the same amount of caffeine — 150 milligrams — as two cups of coffee, Fitch said. A non-caffeinated version of the low-calorie snack is also available for children, and all packaging is resealable. No preservatives are used during production but the popcorn has thus far had an average shelf life of six months.

"We keep finding that it lasts longer," Fitch said.

The pair's first attempt at adding caffeine to popcorn ended with "disgusting" results as caffeine alone boasts a bitter taste; they have since created a sweet and salty blend to mask it. "Most people like sweet and salty," Fitch noted. Sugar, salt and all-natural caffeine, extracted from coffee beans, are added to each batch after it's popped. Future flavors that have already been tested by friends and family of the Fitches include chocolate, chili and cinnamon.

Caffeine and carbohydrates are a good combination, Fitch said, as the carbs prevent the crash that typically follows the big rush of energy from other caffeinated products. While she has not yet tried it, Fitch said snacking on the popcorn while sipping on coffee could be a "lethal combination."

"There would be no sitting still," she said.

Check it out
biofuelfoods.com

March 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **SALEM** at United Methodist Church on Pleasant Street on Sundays Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 19 and March 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Visit saalemfarmersmarket.com

• **SEACOAST EAT LOCAL** starts on Nov. 20 and alternates between Wentworth Greenhouses and Rolinsford and Exeter high schools. Visit seacoasteatlocal.org/winterfarmersmarkets/ for a full schedule.

• **TILTON** at 67 E. Main St., every Saturday from January through March, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See tiltonwinterfarmersmarket.com.
• **WE ARE ONE FARMERS MARKET** at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 118 Center Road in Weare, Fridays through March 30, 3 to 6:30 p.m. See weare1farmersmarket.org.

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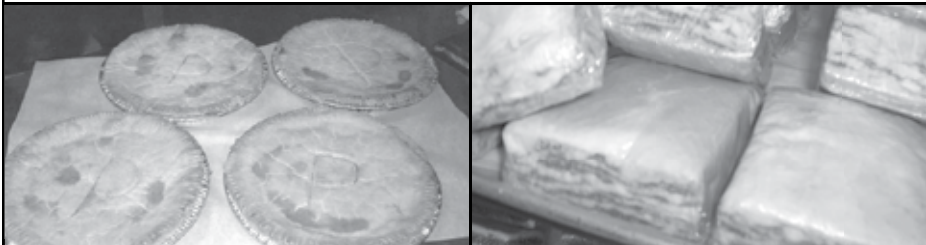
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FOOD

The Copper Door is open

Bedford dining scene gets a casual upscale addition

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

The Copper Door restaurant in Bedford received more than 300 phone messages in one weekend from potential customers clamoring to make reservations at the eatery, which hadn't even formally announced its opening date yet.

The staff at the Copper Door can finally start answering the phone (the corporate office had fielded inquiries in the interim) as it officially opened for business on Dec. 13. Dining reservations will be taken online after the staff has a better understanding as to how long parties will dine at the restaurant, said owner Tom Boucher.

Boucher, who opened T-Bones in 1984 and Cactus Jack's in 1995 (there are now seven locations between both local chains), broke ground on his new 8,000-square-foot, 200-plus-seat restaurant at the intersection of Route 101 and Olde Bedford Road in March.

The completion of the restaurant was right on target with the opening date set by the Great NH Restaurants group, of which Boucher is chief executive officer. Earlier in the year the group had planned to open before Thanksgiving, but the October snowstorm set the project back, Boucher said.

The restaurant held its soft opening the evening prior to its official opening.

"We were actually busier than we thought we would be given the fact that we didn't even announce it," Boucher said of eatery's first unofficial day of business.

Boucher said he is satisfied with how his eighth restaurant turned out.

"I actually spent the time reviewing our business plan and our vision," he said. "We didn't miss one single thing. It's everything we planned it to be." He noted that he has high expectations for his latest restaurant venture and that the Nashua market, and possibly the seacoast, would be great locations for a second Copper Door, should the company choose to expand.

"It's an exciting time for us and the staff is very excited and I know that there's going to be a lot of people going to want to try us, and my only thing I think I would say is: we're brand new, we're going to get it right," Boucher said. "Just like anything else new, it's not going to happen in the first week, but give us 30 days."

The menu, Boucher said, is really the creation of Copper Door executive chef Zachary Martineau. Martineau, a Manchester West High School and New England Culinary Institute grad, has worked in the kitchens at Hanover Street Chophouse in Manchester and the former C.R. Sparks in Bedford. He also served as executive banquet chef for the C.R. Sparks event center. When C.R. Sparks closed, owner Chuck Rolecek allowed other restaurateurs to interview staffers he was unable to take on at the Hanover Street Chophouse. Boucher wanted to hire Martineau after interviewing him two years ago but did not have a spot for him at either T-Bones or Cactus Jack's.



The Copper Door in Bedford. Courtesy photo.

"When we put the ad out [for Copper Door], Zach put his hat in the ring and we just jumped on him," Boucher said. "It was not a difficult decision at all."

The direction given to Martineau during the early stages of menu development was to create upscale food that was also approachable and comfort food that was upscale.

"It's a hard balance to get to, but I think it appeals to folks looking for something a little bit edgy and folks looking for something that they recognize," Boucher said.

Starters at the Copper Door include Tenderloin Spring Rolls (shaved beef tenderloin, provolone and bleu cheese, spicy ketchup), Shrimp Wrapped in Bacon (smoked bacon, whole grain mustard, wild honey, mache Lettuce), Pork Short Chops (pan-seared, radish Sprouts, caper Berries, ponzu sauce) and Golden Beet Carpaccio (red watercress, Belgian endive, candied pecans, chevre mousse, honey-shallot vinaigrette).

"The [menu item] I was most surprised about is the Golden Beet Carpaccio," Boucher said. "Beets are really nutritious for you first of all, and the way he put it together with the goat cheese ... it's just delicious." Beets also take center stage in the restaurant's Roasted Beet Salad (baby arugula, spiced pecans, gorgonzola, picked red onions and honey-shallot vinaigrette).

Among a handful of comfort classics offered at the Copper Door are the Fettuccine Bolognese (roasted shallots, garlic, charred tomato, hand cut fettuccine pasta) and the Buttermilk Chicken (rustic mashed potatoes, pancetta broccoli rabe, roast chicken gravy).

Boucher invested in a stone oven, which he called a very versatile piece of equipment, for Martineau to create such dishes as Cioppino (mussels, shrimp, scallops, swordfish, garlic, tomato, fennel frond, anchovy and fresh herbs) and Tuscan Pizza (lemon-basil pesto, Greek olives, farmhouse chevre, tomato, pecorino romano cheese) at temperatures up to 750 degrees.

Some other dinner entrees offered at the Copper Door include a 14-oz. New York Strip (gorgonzola rustic mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, pinot noir demi), Delmonico Steak (wild mushroom quinoa, Swiss chard and pinot noir demi), Lemon Thyme Brick Chicken (fingerling potatoes, yellow wax beans, shallot thyme jus) and Wood Planked Roasted Sea Scallops (caramelized fennel, lentils, Swiss chard, citrus beurre blanc).





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In addition to its lunch and dinner menus, the Copper Door offers a third menu available exclusively in its bar and lounge, which are separated from the dining room by a three-quarter wall and two-sided fireplace. Boucher said while it has not been entirely ruled out, he does not plan to have live entertainment in the eatery's bar area.

"We wanted this to feel very warm and welcoming in a place that feels just really homey, I guess is the word," he said. "It's just a very warm place."

Boucher's vision of the Copper Door was for it to be an unpretentious eatery with great food, an upscale restaurant that patrons could feel comfortable dining at for more than just special occasions.

"You can come in on a Monday night and order the Buttermilk Fried Chicken for \$16, which is affordable, and if you really want to splurge you can get the exclusive reserve New York Strip steak for \$38," Boucher said. "There's that range for folks."

Boucher said Martineau plans to use as many local products as possible. Goat cheese, root vegetables and honey are now sourced locally and the amount of local pro-

duce used in dishes at the Copper Door will increase in the spring — "There is certainly no produce growing in December," Boucher noted.

One hundred thirty employees were hired for the Copper Door, with a few of those brought over from T-Bones and Cactus Jack's to transfer the culture of the restaurant group as well as some of the principles the company was built on. The restaurant group focuses on six core values, one of which is executing greatness.

"We strive for excellence and not perfection. I think there is a big difference there," Boucher said. "I think people try to strive for perfection, never succeed and get frustrated. We define it as: let's just be excellent at what we do."

Courage is another core value of the group, he noted. "Certainly opening the Copper Door really speaks to that," Boucher said. "We opened in the middle of a tough economy but we felt very strongly about this concept being unique enough to fit in between casual dining and fine dining. We felt that niche wasn't being served."

The Copper Door

15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoorrestaurant.com
Hours: Open daily for lunch, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and for dinner Sunday through Thursday, from 4:30 to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 4:30 to 11 p.m. The bar is open daily, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Big flavor at PastAmore

Italian eatery warms up Amherst

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Giuliano Mastantuono was mum when asked what the secret is to a good marinara sauce. He shared only one tip for making great gravy: exercise patience and cook the sauce slowly.

Mastantuono simmers his sauce, a recipe of his mother's that he made his own, for more than two hours daily at PastAmore Ristorante Italiano, an authentic Italian eatery he opened in a small red house on Route 101A in Amherst in May with business partner Luiz Pereira. Mastantuono had been a friend of the Pereira family for a decade before the pair decided to open an eatery of their own.

"This is a challenge for us because we are introducing a new menu that no one has in the area," Mastantuono said of their lengthy lunch and dinner menu filled with a variety of Italian cuisine. PastAmore was meant to be a play on words; in Italian it means "the love of pasta" and in America some see it as "pasta more," which Mastantuono said coincides with the restaurant's vision — "We're not just pasta, we have all kinds of dishes," he said.

The pair decided to start their restaurant with only 52 seats but hope to grow in the future. Pereira said they have already discussed changing the layout of the dining room to accommodate more customers as the eatery has become a popular weekend dining destination.

"People that like our food come back," Mastantuono said. "We have good food and a good reputation."

Many family members and friends of Pereira and Mastantuono also serve as employees at the restaurant.

"If someone comes in that is not a friend, they will be a friend," Mastantuono said.

"We try to keep it a family environment in the restaurant," Pereira said of the spacious restaurant whose light yellow walls bear accents of red and framed photos of Italian landmarks, such as the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Italian music plays quietly throughout the dining room.

Among the Antipasto, or appetizers, offered at the eatery are Pesto Bruschetta, Suppli (small rice balls made with tomato sauce, stuffed with mozzarella cheese, fried and served with a side of meat sauce) and Melazane Ripieni (grilled eggplant stuffed with ricotta cheese, spinach and romano cheese, topped with marinara).

Entree pasta dishes at the restaurant include Marinara (fresh tomato sauce with onions), Aglio e Olio (garlic, oil and crushed red pepper in a white wine sauce), Boscaiola (sauteed tomatoes, onions, mushrooms, broccoli and zucchini in white wine sauce) and the restaurant's signature dish, Pastamore (garlic, plum tomatoes, artichoke hearts, mozzarella cheese and a hint of rosemary, tossed with pappardelle pasta). For all pasta dishes other than the Pastamore guests have their choice of spaghetti, linguine, fettuccine, cappellini or

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FOOD

penne rigate. All pasta used at the restaurant is made locally at Valicenti Organico in Hollis. The alfredo, four-cheese and bolognese sauces are made in-house.

Pasta is also served as a side with all Secondi menu items, which include Parmigiana Tradizionale (eggplant, chicken or veal topped with marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese), Scalloppine (chicken or veal topped with prosciutto and mushrooms in a Marsala wine sauce) and Piccata Arancia (sautéed chicken or veal with capers and mushrooms in an orange white wine sauce).

"It's chicken piccata without the lemon," Mastantuono noted of the Piccata Arancia. "[Orange] has a little more of a delicate flavor ... it makes a good combination with the chicken."

Another section of the menu is devoted entirely to Pasta Fresca, or fresh pasta, which features such dishes Truffle Wild Mushroom, Lasagna Tradizionale and Gnocchi Veneziana.

Most of the pasta and secondi dishes are offered in smaller portions during lunch hours at PastAmore, but smaller does not mean small, Pereira said — "They're still big," he noted. Italian-inspired paninis are also served for lunch.

One of the most popular seafood items on the menu has been the Gamberi Portofino, shrimp or scallops sautéed with baby spinach, mushrooms, roasted red peppers and fresh tomatoes in white wine sauce served



Giuliano Mastantuono and Luiz Pereira opened PastAmore in Amherst in May. Angel Roy photo.

over penne, Pereira said.

Much of the wine offered at the restaurant sits behind the hostess and server station; another rack is dedicated to wines sold by the bottle. A few authentic Italian beers are among the restaurant's brew offerings, including Peroni and Birra Moretti. Pereira said he and Mastantuono are considering installing a full-service bar but have no immediate plans to do so.

"We don't want to go too fast with anything we do," Mastantuono said. "We're still growing. Every month we will make choices about what we need."

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a.m. to 5 p.m., on Dec. 22.

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The second annual New Hampshire's Own Macaroni and Cheese Bake-Off, organized by Granite State Dairy Promotion, has been scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn in Concord on Sat., Jan. 14, from 2 to 6 p.m. Contestants may enter one of four categories: Best of NH (made with 100 percent milk and cheese from NH dairy products), Best Traditional, Most Creative or Exotic and Best Restaurant (a category open only to eateries). The winner of each category will have a chance to be crowned the 2012 grand champion and have their recipe featured on the menu at Cotton (cottonfood.com) in Manchester. Tickets cost \$10 at the door and event goers can vote for the "People's Choice Award." The deadline to enter is Dec. 21 and entry forms can be found at nhdairypromo.org.

• CHILI & CHOWDER

The first annual Souhegan Valley Chili Chowder Cookoff will be held at the Amherst Business Center on Route 101A in Amherst on Sun., Jan. 29, from 1 to 6 p.m. There will be a \$10 entry fee for amateurs (\$25 entry fee for commercial chefs and restaurants) and all participants will need to prepare samples to share with an estimated 300 event goers. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners in each "People's Choice" category. Tickets cost \$10 (\$5 for children under 12) at souhegan.net or at the door. Call 673-4360 for more information.

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In the spotlight



***Girl in the Kitchen: How a Top Chef Cooks, Thinks, Shops, Eats and Drinks*, by Stephanie Izard with Heather Shouse (2011, Chronicle Books)**

Stephanie Izard won Season 4 of *Top Chef*, a season best known for who didn't win. Izard, who specialized in a kind of high-end comfort food, beat out Richard Blais (who eventually won *Top Chef: All Stars*). While Blais was a memorable cheftestant for his use of molecular gastronomy to offer playful twists on classic dishes, Izard, from her first win, excelled in a kind of cooking from the soul. Here, we get to see what that means when she can choose her own meals and ingredients. Her recipes focus on big flavor. What they lack in obvious razzle-dazzle they more than make up for in being satisfying. Consider: French Gnocchi with Watercress Sauce, Artichoke and Strawberry Panzella, Smoked Ham Hock and Leek Soup and Seared Halibut with Peanut-Pork Ragu. These are I-love-food recipes, recipes that are luxurious. Throughout the book, Izard gives her thoughts on some of the ingredients — olives, miso paste, fish sauce, heirloom tomatoes — highlighted in some of the recipes. And because Izard's approach is all about the enjoyment of food, each recipe includes beer or wine recommendations. — *Amy Diaz*

Wine Tasting on Thurs., Feb. 9, that will feature three appetizers made with chocolate and paired with six wines. Tickets cost \$35. Reservations are required.

• **LEBANESE DINNER** Washington Street Catering, 88 Washington St., Concord, 228-2000, www.washingtonstreetcatering.com, is serving up a five-course Lebanese dinner every Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. The menu features tapas-style appetizers of hummus, pita

chips, marinated almonds, garlicky cheese, olives, a choice of soup (typically chicken lemon or lentil Swiss chard) and tabouli or fatoush. Four entrees — lamb, beef, chicken and vegetarian, all served with a starch and roasted vegetables — are offered each Friday. Guests are served espresso, baklava and fruit for dessert. The dinner costs \$23.95 per person and reservations are recommended. Guests may bring their own wine at no additional charge.

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FOOD

Weekly Dish

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of online study (15 live webinars conducted by wine experts) and an opportunity for a live course review and tasting with Roz Angoff, A Grape Affair educator and certified Rhône Master, on Sunday, April 1, from 1 to 4 p.m. The exam will be administered on Sunday, April 22. The course costs \$260 (\$410 with exam). Visit agrapeaffair.com to register.

• **Celebrate local heroes:** The first Statewide Red Cross Heroes Breakfast, hosted by the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Red Cross, will be held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market St., Portsmouth, on Thurs-

day, March 22, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Visit nhredcross.org to learn about sponsorship opportunities or nominate a hero.

• **Meals of all sizes:** Eden Restaurant and Lounge, 2323 Brown Ave., Manchester, 249-3336, edenrestaurantandlounge.com, has redesigned its menu to be split into small, medium and large dishes. New dishes include seared scallops (served over wakame salad, topped with butter poached lobster and soy beurre blanc), grilled quail (with acorn squash, pear and cranberry hash with cherry gastrique) and New York sirloin (with garlic mashed potatoes, mushroom demi glace and broccolini).

• **SUNDAY ROAST DINNER** Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com, will offer Sunday Roast Dinners in its dining room, from 5 to 8 p.m., through March 25. Sommelier Jon Carnevale will pair the ever-changing hearty three-course meals prepared by Executive Chef Benjamin Knack with a selection of red wines throughout the winter. The dinner costs \$35 (wine is not included). Reservations are recommended.

• **FAMILY STYLE DINNER** 36 deLux, 36 Lowell St., Manchester, 644-1180, richardsbistro.com, will begin offering family-style dinners for \$15 per person every Sunday, starting on Jan. 1.

Church/charity suppers/ bake sales

• **TOYS FOR TOTS** The Holy Grail Pub, 64 Main St., Epping, 679-9559, will accept new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots through Fri., Dec. 23.

Cooking classes/workshops

• **A MARKET** The Manchester natural foods store's education center offers classes and workshops on health and nutrition. See www.amanetnaturalfoods.com.

• **CHEZ BOUCHER COOKING SCHOOL** Chez Boucher Cooking School, 32 Depot Square in Hampton, 926-2202, www.chezboucher.com, offers one-day workshops, mini-sessions, international cooking, cooking with friends, team-building, classes for kids, international tours and more.

• **CREATIVE FEAST CLASSES** Liz Barbour's Creative Feast, www.thecreativefeast.com, has classes and demonstrations. E-mail lizb@thecreativefeast.com or go online to register.

• **CO-OP CLASSES** The Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St. in Concord, 410-3099, www.concordfoodcoop.coop, will hold a series of wellness and green living classes over the next few months. Even free classes require registration; call 225-6840 or e-mail classes@concordfoodcoop.coop to sign up. See www.concordfoodcoop.coop or call 225-6840.

• **FREDERICK'S PASTRIES** at 109 Route 101A in Amherst offers one-time classes for kids and adults in cake decoration and design. Check www.pastry.net or call 882-7725.

In the spotlight



Cook This Now: 120 Easy and Delectable Dishes You Can't Wait to Make, by Melissa Clark (2011, Hyperion)

January seems a lot less cruel if it comes with White Bean Stew With Rosemary, Garlic and Farro; or Mallobars (the photo of which shows a giant bar cookie — 10 percent graham cracker bottom, 10 percent chocolate coating, 80 percent homemade honey marshmallow deliciousness).

Those are two of the recipes that appear in the January section of the Winter chapter. This book is all about seasonal eating (and since Melissa Clark lives in Brooklyn, her seasonal offerings don't vary much from ours). Sure, who needs another book about locavore, cooking-from-the-harvest dishes... but did you see the part about the marshmallow? If that's cooking seasonally, sign me up.

In addition to being a longtime food writer who puts together clear recipes (which also happen to sound quite tasty), Clark makes each recipe the food equivalent of a classic white shirt or a flattering pair of jeans — her 120 dishes are each a kind of basic that can be altered to fit the occasion. The Gingery Split Pea Soup with Toasted Coriander (which makes March sound less glum), comes with instruction for how to fiddle with ingredients, how to make it a thicker stew-like dish or what to do if you like everything but the "split pea" part of the equation. Similarly, with all greenery recipes, like Roasted Asparagus with Gingered Rhubarb Sauce, she suggests how to turn the dish into a full entree (add chicken), what to do if you'd rather not make the sauce, and other things you can do with the ingredients (the gingered rhubarb can become Rhubarb-Ginger Compote).

With the exception of a few glossy pages here and there, *Cook This Now* isn't a book with illustration or much adornment, but it is a sensible, user-friendly and, perhaps best of all, realistic approach to seasonal eating.

— Amy Diaz

• **LOSE IT, TOO!** a 10-week healthier you series sponsored by Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop, will star on Jan. 9, and be held Mondays, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The program will feature cooking demonstrations, nutrition and fitness consultations and exercise and fitness tips. Students will also be given a cookbook filled with 500 calorie dinners. The series costs \$40 and spots can be reserved by calling 225-6840.

• **TEEN COOKING CLASS** A teen cooking club will be held in the Winchell Room of the Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, on Fri., Nov. 18, from 4 to 5 p.m. The class will teach teens in grades 6 to 12 the basics of cooking. Call Kate Norton at 624-6550, ext. 342.

• **WINTERGREEN BOTANICALS** in Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown (268-0548, www.wintergreenbotanicals.com) offers classes in the use of herbs for better health. See schedule online.

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DRINK

Red, white and green A lot of wine, a little cash

This is a great time for family- style meals, and few things lend themselves to that as well as large Italian dishes of pasta. So we went to Italy this week to sample two affordable reds.

Our first Italian is a **2009 Vietti Barbera D'Asti Tre Vigne** from Asti in northern Italy near Turin (\$13.99). The grape used in this wine is barbera, one of the more common Italian varietals. It's also grown in California, South America and Australia. This northern wine was bright in the glass with a ruby color. On the nose we got fresh cherries, spice and dry fruit. For flavors we got big bright flavors of fruit with little tannins (a nice characteristic on this varietal). This wine is light enough to go well with all kinds of Italian dishes or by itself.

Our second wine is a **2007 Terra d'Aligi**



Tatone Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. The varietal used here is montepulciano, named after the town of Montepulciano, where it is thought to have come from. Unlike our barbera, this wine was dark, dark purple, almost black. For nose we

got earth and spice. We should warn you, though we enjoyed this wine, it's big, really big. Even as a 2007 it still had a lots of those mouth- puckering tannins, but there was also some nice plum and cherry and it went great with a marinara.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," two wine-lovers look at red and white wines, none over \$20 (and most under \$15), in an attempt to find some great bottles for good prices. All prices are according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

Drink Listings Breweries/Distilleries

- **ANHEUSER-BUSCH** 221 DW Hwy, Merrimack. Complimentary tours include a visit to the Clydesdale Hamlet, home of the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 595-1202.
- **ELM CITY BREWING COMPANY** Colony Mill Marketplace, 222 West St., Keene, 355-3335, www.elmcitybrewing.com. Restaurant, brewery and pub, open Mon.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **THE FLYING GOOSE BREW PUB & GRILLE** 40 Andover Road in New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com.
- **IncrediBREW/ GRAPE TIME WINTER**, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, grapetimewinery.com (call for class schedule, tastings)
- **ITALIAN OASIS RESTAURANT & BREWERY** 106 Main St. in Littleton, 444-6695.
- **MARTHA'S EXCHANGE RESTAURANT & BREWING COMPANY** 185 Main St. in Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com.
- **MILLY'S TAVERN** 500 Commercial St. in Manchester, 625-4444, millystavern.com.
- **MOAT MOUNTAIN SMOKE HOUSE & BREWING COMPANY** 3378 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, 356-6381, moatmountain.com.
- **THE PORTSMOUTH BREWERY** 56 Market St., Portsmouth, www.portsmouthbrewery.com, 603-431-1115. Free tours Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 3 p.m.
- **REDHOOK BREWERY** 35 Corporate Drive, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth, www.redhook.com, produces Redhook ales and features the Cataqua Public House offering brews and a pub menu. Tours offered Monday and Tuesday at 2 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday at noon, 1, 3 and 4 p.m.; Friday and

Saturday every hour on the hour from noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday every hour on the hour from 1 to 4 p.m.

- **SEVEN BARREL BREWERY** 5 Airport Road in West Lebanon, 298-5566.
- **SMUTTYNOSE** 225 Heritage Ave., Portsmouth, smuttynose.com, 436-4026. Free tours to the public Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m.
- **TUCKERMAN BREWING COMPANY** 64 Hobbs St., Conway, 447-5400, www.tuckermanbrewing.com, offers tours every Saturday at 3 p.m.
- **WHITE BIRCH BREWING** 1339 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 244-8593, www.whitebirchbrewing.com. Open daily.
- **WOODSTOCK INN BREWERY** 135 Main St., North Woodstock, 745-3951, woodstockinbrewery.com.

Cider

- **CROOKED TREE CIDER**, 35 Stickney Road, Whitefield, 837-9174, crookedtreecider.com
- **FARNUM HILL CIDERS** 98 Poverty Lane, Lebanon, 448-1511, www.farnumhillciders.com
- **SILVER MOUNTAIN CIDERS**, Lempster, 477-2026, silvermountainciders.com (open Thurs.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment)

Classes/workshops on wine/beer making

- **HAPPY NEW BEERS** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Fri., Jan. 6. The cost is \$35 and reservations are required.
- **WINEFEST** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Fri., Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$60 (includes six bottles of wine) and reservations are required.
- **DARK AND STORMY NIGHT BREWFEST** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Tues., Jan. 24, at 6 p.m. The cost

is \$60 (includes two cases of beer) and reservations are required.

• **ABE'S ALEFEST** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Sat., Feb. 11, at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$35 (includes a variety case of beer) and reservations are required.

Special wine tastings

- **BUBBLY TASTING** Angela's Pasta & Cheese Shop, 815 Chestnut St., Manchester, 625-9544, angelaspastaandcheese.com, will host a sparkling wine tasting throughout the day on Fri., Dec. 23.
- **MURDER MYSTERY** Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com, will host "A Fateful Family Affair," a Zorvino Murder Mystery will be held on Sat., Jan. 21, at 6 p.m., and the \$30 ticket price will include a signed book and light appetizers. The tasting room will be open during the event. Reservations are required.
- **WINTER WINE SPECTACULAR**, a fundraiser for Easter Seals NH, will be held Thurs., Jan. 26, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Radisson in downtown Manchester. Sample hundreds of wines and enjoy eats from local restaurants. Tickets to the grand tasting cost \$65 per person. Tickets to the grand tasting plus the Bellman's Cellar Select room (which features higher end wines and runs from 6 to 8 p.m.) cost \$125 per person. See nh.easterseals.com for tickets.
- **WINE TASTING BENEFIT** A wine tasting to benefit the Genetic Counseling Program at Concord Hospital Breast Care Center will be held at the Grappone Conference Center on Fri., Feb. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. A VIP session will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. A custom-designed white diamond and white gold ring, valued at \$3,000, will be the featured raffle prize at the event. Tickets cost \$30 (\$75 for VIP, which includes an additional tasting hour and a Riedel wine glass) at ch-trust.org or by calling 225-2711.

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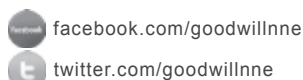
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...served with *Happy Hog Hefeweizen, German style wheat beer*

Second Course

Carrot and Thai chili soup puree with smoked duck
...served with *Love Me Long Time, Bohemian-style pilsner*

Third Course

Mache salad with goat cheese, golden beets and white balsamic vinaigrette
...served with *Hopstruck, red India pale ale*

Fourth Course

Braised beef short rib with espresso demi glace, creamy polenta
and truffled pattypan
...served with *Dippity Do, American brown ale*

Fifth Course

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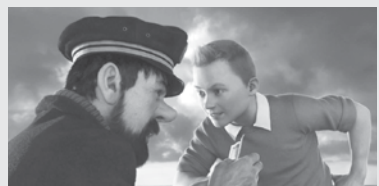
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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lparsons@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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POP CULTURE:

CDS

**Spank Rock, *Everything is Boring and Everyone Is a F—ing Liar*
Bad Blood Records, Dec. 13**



I suppose it's normal that people are PO'ed that this is less of an X-rated scum-fest than the duo's first album *Yoyoyoyoyo*, but there's a lot to the noisy beats laid down here by XXXChange (with help from a wide range of producers, granted). Matter of fact, it's a clinic on what alt-hiphop-with-a-crush-on-rock should be trying with noise. Really, it's not simply a bunch of cool sounds...

OK, it is, but pay attention and you'll find a lot of slick tweaks, giving the stuff a depth that's actually quite intelligent, not knob-twisting for the sake of looking busy. MC Spank himself fades in and out of playing Prince reborn for a generation that doesn't care that there's a difference between information and knowledge, not that his flows are anything to sneeze at when he's in rap mode. Yes, there are gross, perverted lines driven home with railroad spikes, and die-hards will write off the 2 Live Crew and Black Eyed Peas tangents with severe disdain, but overall it's what Meat Beat Manifesto might have done in the old days if some Warner Brothers suit had a gun to their heads. **A-** —Eric W. Saeger

**Michael Campagna, *Moments*
Challenge Records, Dec. 6**



UMiami grad Campagna is on his second LP as a composer/bandleader, and although this can be a bit of a chore to follow, his sax flows so exquisitely that you can forgive the more off-the-cuff-sounding passages (though touted as a pretty serious guy, he does have his Mingus-ish indulgences). His interplay with trumpet-player Michael Rodriguez isn't always hand-in-glove, though Rodriguez

does a good job of keeping up, lending a Night Passages-era Weather Report sound to the fluffier stuff. Things get mathematical in "Journeys," piano-bar (with operatic flourishes) in "Celestial Romance," this sort of thing, but the woozy weirdness of "Midnight Whistle" will come off as rude if you're simply trying to chill. **B** —Eric W. Saeger



Playlist

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- Oh forget it, who on earth would be releasing an album two days after Christmas, if we're all still alive of course? **Trent Reznor** and NIN producer **Atticus Ross**, that's who! Right, it's not technically an album-album, it's the **soundtrack** to the movie *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, which looks cool enough I suppose, not that Daniel Craig has any credibility to spare after doing that one really stupid movie there, what was it, *Dream House*, what the hell was he thinking. Meanwhile, this soundtrack album will feature **Karen O** doing a weird version of Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song" on it. What's that? No, that isn't so much a legitimate reason to buy a soundtrack album for a movie that will be completely forgotten in one month, I'm just saying, you know, girl from Yeah Yeah Yeahs plus Led Zeppelin, you know, irony, will we ever run out of it or what?

- So that oughtta do it for this year. Wait, there's one more, namely the debut album from **One Direction**, the Irish boy band who appeared for a little while on that TV show, the dumb one there, *X-Factor*. No, not the U.S. version of X-Factor, the U.K. version. What? No, I don't think there's a difference, aside from the quality of the "fish 'n' chips" in the green room. Anyway, this super-important album from these random Justin Biebers is called *Up All Night*, and it's out next week on import.

- And that's it for this year for perfectly timed new albums that are coming out right when people are looking at their Mastercard bills and thinking seriously about jumping the border and hiding in Juarez until the dollar deflates and there are no humans remaining on this planet. So Happy New Year everybody... wait, what, no, it can't be. An import version of Jimmy Buffett's *Take the Weather With You* is out next week also. Don't worry, it doesn't have "Margaritaville" on it, so you don't have to buy it. Seriously, a **Jimmy Buffett** album without "Margaritaville" on it is like a Don Ho album without "Tiny Bubbles" on it, or like cheese and crackers with no cheese or crackers. Also, mandals must be destroyed.

- So much for that. Anyway, really, I'd like to spend the rest of this space thanking you, all my devoted readers, for another great year of... OMG what, there's one last new album, specifically from German power-metal band **Iron Savior**, coming out next week, and it's called *The Landing*. Yes, if you can count on anything, it's a heavy metal band putting out an album EVERY WEEK NO MATTER WHAT, and thus it shall be, by Old Mr. Scratch's bones, because DEATH TO POSERS and, and, you know, DIO FORKED-FINGER SALUTE, and, um, like, you know, what, RISE AND AVENGE and stuff! —Eric W. Saeger

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Art house theater at home

Indie movies get wide audience via TV

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

For years the only way to see many independent movies was to live in the heart of a major American city and go to an art house theater.

Even in New Hampshire, where a handful of theaters offer limited release films, not all of the foreign films, documentaries and other smaller movies ever reach a local screen.

But now Comcast has created an On Demand feature that brings movies into people's homes on the same day they are released in theaters. This allows access to these movies like never before, according to Ellen Mellody, director of corporate communications, video, at Comcast.

"I'm in Philly and we only have two art houses," Mellody said. "Look at some of these big studio-backed films. A film that costs \$125 million to make probably has a \$125 million marketing budget. Indie films just can't compete."

Obviously, not all of the many movies produced each year are made by major studios like Warner Bros. Pictures, Paramount Pictures, Universal Pictures and 20th Century Fox. When people complain that Hollywood has no new stories, they are often referring to these major studios that shell out big bucks for a film and want to get a big return. Films not released by a major studio get the independent film label. In the independent film world there is more room for experimentation.

The sheer scope of Comcast, which enters millions of homes, has allowed indie films via On Demand to have great success over the past five years. Technology has also had an impact. The quality of home entertainment systems with HDTVs and surround sound has made viewing a movie at home similar to watching it in the theater. Add a bad economy where people don't want to shell out \$10 to see a movie they may or may not like and you have the perfect recipe for same-day On Demand. It has, in essence, changed filmmaking.

"I am 49 years old and it is changing the way I think about a movie," said director Mark Pellington, whose new movie, *I Melt With You*, stars Thomas Jane, Rob Lowe and Jeremy Piven.

Pellington said in the past if you didn't live in one of the top 25 markets you were out of luck when it came to watching a dark, indie art film. Now people can access them at any time. For a filmmaker that means more people watching your film, which is always the goal. Pellington said previously indie films had to compete with major movie studios for the same screens, which was an unwinnable battle. The playing field is becoming more level.

Of course a movie, no matter how



Thomas Jane, Rob Lowe and Jeremy Piven. Photo courtesy of Magnolia Pictures.

small its budget, still needs to get in the hands of a distributor, like Magnolia Pictures, which is distributing Pellington's *I Melt With You*. To do this a film needs to make a splash at one of the big film festivals, like Toronto, Tribeca or Sundance, which *I Melt With You* did. Once that happens it can be picked up by a distributor and then opened to opportunities like Comcast On Demand. The film premiered On Demand in early November and was released in theaters on Dec. 9, according to its website, magnolias.com/imeltwithyou/.

There are some drawbacks to the On Demand method. Pellington said for a filmmaker there is nothing quite like having a captive audience in a theater. In a movie theater people can't push pause or answer the door bell. But Pellington was willing to trade attentiveness for quantity.

Pellington said so far *I Melt With You* has gotten strong reactions from critics. He said the film crosses genders, as some women love it while others reject it.

"No one is indifferent," Pellington said. "It pushes buttons."

I Melt With You is the story of four college friends who get together each year to reminisce. Their most recent gathering is different as they enter a dark place of drugs and sex. In the end, they must re-evaluate their lives and an idealistic pact they made in college. Pellington emphasized music to drive the film. Piven said portraying the characters was easy because it was all laid out brilliantly in the script and Pellington, who previously directed *The Mothman Prophecies* and *Arlington Road*, was always available to sit down and discuss the characters.

Regardless of the box office numbers, Pellington is happy with the movie he made.

"We live in a culture that qualifies things with numbers," Pellington said. "Everything has to be instantaneous. In the end, what does it matter? The next minute there will be 100 new books, songs and movies to digest."

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POP CULTURE:

GAMES



Bastion (XBLA/PC/Google Chrome)
Supergiant Games, E10+

The recent release of Indie Action RPG *Bastion* as playable via Google Chrome browser is as good a reason as any to finally give it its due.

And I never should have waited this long. While action RPGs have struck a chord with gamers since the heyday of *Diablo*, the years have seen a rash of them. Simple hack-and-slash game play with the dangling carrot of increasingly powerful loot has served to distract gamers from the genuine innovation and elegance that the heights of the game style can enjoy. *Bastion* is solidly in the company of such action RPG greats as *Diablo 2* and *Torchlight* though it lacks their deeper RPG customizability in favor of a more approachable arcade style.

A great Calamity has fractured the land of Caelondia and The Kid must fight his way through the broken landscape to attempt to piece it back together. The world assembles itself beneath your feet as you travel and you must hack, slash and shoot your way past hordes of enemies that assault you on your journey. Which all seems very par for the course in describing a video game. But that is exactly part of the charm. The Kid is a scraggly-haired silent protagonist trudging through an Ur-Video Game Plot. You outfit The Kid with a variety of upgradeable armaments and as you progress you unlock new buildings back at the Bastion. You can buff your character with potions from the distillery or layer challenges upon your quest at the Shrine.

Bastion's accessible controls — dodge, shoot, block, bash — are tight and satisfying and the added precariousness of fighting on the edge of a world makes every encounter more thrilling than you'd expect. Your ability to easily tailor your arsenal to your tastes keeps you going at the game's more frustrating moments as it encourages a level of experimentation that is often absent in a button-mash-focused genre.

From its charming art to the dynamic voice-overs that narrate The Kid's tale based on player actions, habits and choices, *Bastion* is a surprising delight. It is a superbly crafted game that gently encourages you to experiment and to challenge yourself. The port of *Bastion* to the Chrome browser places one of the best games of 2011 into the largest install base quickly and cheaply. While it could stand to have some console controller compatibility, the mouse & keyboard suffices. Under no circumstances should any self-respecting gamer — console, PC or MAC — pass by this gem.

A — Glenn Given

Trine 2 (PC/MAC/Linux/PS3/360)
Frozenbyte, E10+

Swap between a clever wizard, a burly warrior and a ... clever but-less-mag-



ical-than-the-wizard thief in *Trine 2*, the puzzle platforming sequel to 2009's *Trine*.

As in its precursor, the magical artifact the Trine has bound the fates of three adventurers together into one. Which is a clever conceit to explain the role-swapping mechanic that enables the player to instantly switch between the three characters. Again, Amadeus (the wizard), Pontius (the warrior) and Zoya (the "entrepreneur") must jump, battle and conjure their way across a lushly detailed world to save the kingdom.

The central principle of *Trine* remains intact in *Trine 2*. Using the unique abilities of the threesome you must overcome obstacles and enemies. Amadeus is the most versatile but the most vulnerable. His ability to summon blocks and planks as well as levitate and manipulate objects from a distance makes him ideal for arranging the field. Pontius can block incoming attacks and dangers with his shield, crush boulders with a mighty hammer and slice through orcs with his trusty sword. Zoya can fire an array of deadly arrows and launch herself across the screen with a *Bionic Commando*-esque grappling hook.

As you progress through the game you will collect magical vials from fallen foes or find them among the many hidden alcoves and pathways. You can spend the experience they impart to unlock new abilities for each of your characters. Zoya gains stealth, freezing and explosive arrows, Pontius can hurl his hammer, ignite his sword and charge enemies and Amadeus, most critically, gains the ability to summon multiple objects.

The physics-based navigation and puzzling are simultaneously whimsical and quizzical. Sometimes you are deflecting streams from a waterfall to coax a giant mushroom into sprouting a bouncy elevator for your team. Other times you must snipe goblins as you hop across fragile platforms to the conjured bridge you've covered the spiked pit with. There are possible paths to success using each of the characters' abilities but you will likely find that swapping and combining them is the surest route. Should you fall to your enemies, or more likely to a sharp and pointy demise, *Trine 2* is forgiving. Upon reaching the many checkpoints throughout a level your triumvirate is replenished and ready to forge ahead.

Trine 2 is also one of the most beautiful games seen all year. Characters and environment animate fluidly and control accurately, but one should expect that in any platform title. There is a tremendous depth to the world, despite its 2-D axis, and all of it is richly detailed and saturated with color. *Trine 2* also brings its coop mode online, with the entire story playable by three players. *Trine 2* is an improvement on its predecessor and a potentially perfect package of aesthetics, smooth gameplay and engaging challenges.

A+ — Glenn Given

POP CULTURE:

BOOK & LECTURE LISTINGS

Libraries

- **Amherst Town Library**
14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us
- **Bedford Public Library**
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us
- **Concord Public Library**
45 Green St., 225-8670, www.concordpubliclibrary.net
- **Derry Public Library**
64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derry.lib.nh.us
- **Goffstown Public Library**
2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstown.lib.nh.us
- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701B Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org
- **Manchester City Library**
405 Pine St. (main branch) and 76 N. Main St. (West branch), 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
- **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org
- **Nashua Public Library**
2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org
- **Rodgers Memorial Library**
194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rogerslibrary.org
- **Tucker Free Library**
31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, tuckerfreelibrary.org
- **Wadleigh Memorial Library**
49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us
- **Wilton Public Library**
7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org

Bookstores

- **Barnes & Noble**
1741 South Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557; 235 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-5961; bn.com
- **Double Midnight Comics & Collectibles**
245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com
- **Gibson's Bookstore**
27 South Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com
- **MainStreet Bookends**
16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com
- **River Run Books**
20 Congress St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com
- **Toadstool Bookshop**
586 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734, toadbooks.com.

Other

- **Manchester Historic Association**
200 Bedford St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org
- **New Hampshire Humanities Council**
19 Pillsbury St., Concord, 224-4071, www.nhhc.org
- **New Hampshire State Library**
20 Park St., Concord, www.nh.gov/nhsl
- **New Hampshire Writers' Project**
SNHU, 2521 N. River Rd., Manchester, 314-7980, nhwritersproject.org
- **Rivier College**
420 Main St., Nashua, 888-1311, rivier.edu.

BOOKS

In the spotlight



China tour

Photographer and tour operator Richard Ferland — www.richardferland-photography.com

— presents “Travel

to China: From Preparation to Immersion” on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). The talk, illustrated with slides, will cover topics from planning a trip to how to mingle with the locals. It's free and open to the public. Ferland's speaking tour will also take him to the Concord Public Library on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m., Pelham Public Library on Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m., Wiggin Memorial Library in Stratham on March 7 at 6:30 p.m., Manchester City Library on March 20 at 7 p.m., Nesmith Library in Windham on March 22 at 7 p.m., and many other New England sites. He's planning a trip to China for photographers in June and a trip open to anyone in September.

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Author events

• **MARY KATHRYN MACKLIN** will talk about her book *Women Fit at Fifty: A Guide for Living Long*, on Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord, and on Tues., Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Tucker Free Library, 31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471.

• **JOHN M. BARRY** will talk about his book *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul*, on Thurs., Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.

• **HENRY LOUIS GATES JR.** will talk about his new book *Life Upon These Shores: Looking at African American History* on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers in the Loft series. Tickets to the event cost \$64 and include a reserved seat, book, bar beverage, the author presentation, Q&A and book-signing meet & greet. Tickets are available at the Music Hall box office, 436-2400 or www.themusicall.org.

• **STEVEN R. CLOSS** will talk about his book *Willing Sacrifice: Granite State Valor during the American Civil War 1861-1865* on Tues., Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. in the Winchell Room of Manchester City Library. He'll talk about the contributions of the 2,000+ soldiers from NH who died in combat during the Civil War, and in particular the stories of the 157 soldiers from Manchester.

• **NH AUTHORS SERIES 2011-2012** at UNH in Durham takes place Sundays at 2 p.m. in the 5th-floor courtyard reading room of Dimond Library. Author interviews are followed by a Q&A session with the audience. Jan. 29: James Patrick Kelly, whose novel *Burn* won a 2007 Nebula Award and who has also won two Hugo awards. April 22: Rebecca Rule, regional storyteller and author of *Headin' for the Rhubarb! A New Hampshire Dictionary (well, kinda)*. Interviews are recorded for broadcast on NHPTV and for streaming online at www.nhptv.org/authors. The series is free and open to the public but seating is limited; to reserve a seat, visit www.library.unh.edu/friends or call 862-1540.

• **LOCAL AUTHORS NIGHT** on Thurs., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Image Gallery at Nashua Public Library. Spend an evening chatting with local authors and getting their advice on what it would take to get your own book published. Light refreshments will be served. Authors who want to participate should sign up at www.tinyurl.com/npldiscussion by Jan. 31. Snow date is Feb. 29.

• **ERIK LARSON** will talk about his recent New York Times bestseller *In the Garden of Beasts* on Tues., May 8, at 7:30 p.m. at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers on a New England Stage series. Tickets to the event cost \$13 and are available at the box office, 436-2400 or www.themusicall.org. Copies of the book can be purchased in advance at the Music Hall box office. The producers ask patrons to support this series by purchasing their books through The Music Hall.

Lectures and discussions

• **EVEREST!** multimedia presentation by Craig John about his ascent of the North Ridge of Mt. Everest and his expeditions to Kilimanjaro, Denali and Cho Oyu, on Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public.

• **THE HUMAN SPIRIT: ADVENTURES AND CHALLENGES** program series at Amherst Town Library begins with a presentation by international climber and mountain guide Craig John (www.craigjohnclimbing.com) about his ascent of the North Ridge of Mt. Everest on Tues., Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. The events in this program series are free and open to the public but registration is required due to space limitations; call the library or visit the website. Next up is a presentation on Homer's *Odyssey* on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.; Denali Delmar's *No-Knead Miracle Bread Workshop* on Tues., Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m.; “What Endures,” a discussion series led by Emily Archer on Wed., Jan. 18, Tues., Jan. 31, and Wed., Feb. 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; “Adding Years to Your Life and Life to Your Years: A Roadmap to Enhance Longevity and Wellness” on Tues., Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.; “It's Not About the Hike” on Tues., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m.; and Exploring America's Tackiest Tourist Photos with humorist Darren Garnick on Tues., Feb. 28, at 7 p.m.

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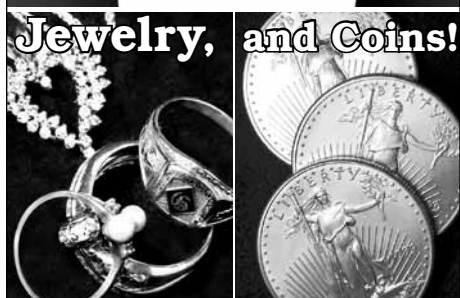
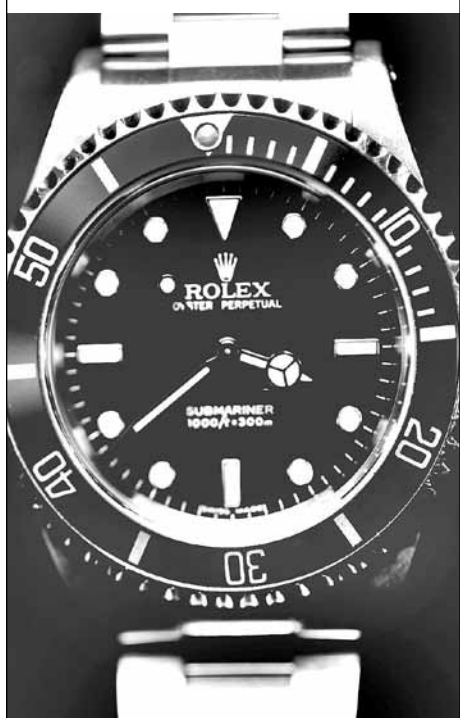
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POP CULTURE:

• **SHOAH (HOLOCAUST) SEMINAR** for adults begins Jan. 12 at Congregation Betenu in Amherst. There will be 10 weekly meetings, on Thursdays, between 7 and 8:30 p.m. Each session will stand alone, and the public is invited to come to the whole series or just individual sessions of interest. No pre-registration is needed, but RSVP is appreciated. The seminar will be led by Raphael Colb, an English teacher at Hebrew University. Contact Rahel at 554-1459 or betenu@nii.net for info or to RSVP.

• **TRAVEL TO CHINA: FROM PREPARATION TO IMMERSION** presented by photographer and tour operator Richard Ferland on Thurs., Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). The talk, illustrated with slides, will cover topics from planning a trip to how to mingle with the locals. Free and open to the public.

• **HAUNTED LIGHTHOUSES OF NEW ENGLAND** presented by Jeremy D'Entremont on Thurs., Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library. Free and open to the public. D'Entremont's books will be available for purchase and signing at the presentation.

• **STONE WALLS OF NEW ENGLAND** presented by actor, author and NHPR producer Kevin Gardner on Thurs., Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Gardner explores the cultural and historical significance of New England's stone walls as he constructs a model wall using small stones on a table. Free and open to the public.

• **WILD TURKEYS** discussion of the natural history, habits and habitats of the eastern wild turkey, presented by Mark Ellingwood of NH Fish and Game on Thurs., Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public, but register at tinyurl.com/npllectures.

• **NH TO ARGENTINA BY MOTORCYCLE** presented by Ben Slavin, who rode from his Hooksett home to the world's southernmost city, Ushuaia, Argentina, on Thurs., Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public. See Slavin's blog at www.afewmoremiles.com.

• **THE 2012 FRAUD: MISREADING THE MAYA AND THEIR CALENDARS** presented by R.P. Hale on Thurs., Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public.

Book discussions

• **AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY** Friday Afternoon Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at the library. Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info. Visitors and/or new members always welcome (please call in advance). Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info.

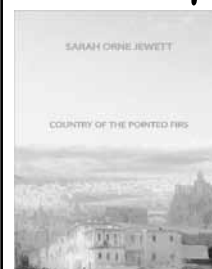
• **ANIME CLUB** at Nashua Public Library for grades 8-12 meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.

• **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library for grades 6-12 meets on some Thursdays at 4 p.m. This is an informal club where fans can gather to play cards, watch movies, discuss their favorite characters, and draw. Meetings are scheduled for Jan. 19, and Feb. 16 in the Winchell Room.

• **ANIME & MANGA CLUB**

BOOKS

In the spotlight



Share a book

Does being in the thick of winter make you want to curl up with a book? And then does the stir-craziness make you want to get out and talk to other human beings? Combine both activities by participating in a local book discussion group. Get reading now for these:

Gibson's Bookstore in Concord hosts monthly book discussions and sells copies of the discussion title at 25 percent off until the meeting date. Meetings are generally held at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. On Jan. 2, *Country of the Pointed Firs*, by Sarah Orne Jewett. On Feb. 6, they'll tackle *The Merchant of Venice* for their annual Shakespeare reading.

Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., 624-6550) Brown Bag Book Club will gather on Tuesday, Dec. 27, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room to talk about *A Year in Provence*, by Peter Mayle — bring a bag lunch.

The library's evening book discussion group will get together on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Hunt Room to talk about *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, by Geraldine Brooks.

Wadleigh Library in Milford has a new Chicks with Sticks book club for grades 7 and up; it will meet on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 3 p.m. to discuss *Paranormalcy* by Kiersten White, new members and beginning knitters welcome. The Wadleigh Library morning book group will meet Thursday, Jan. 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to discuss *Emma* by Jane Austen.

is forming at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson and seeks members to join. Meetings will involve book discussions, anime viewing, and workshops. Visit www.rodgerslibrary.org or call 886-6030.

• **THE BLEEDING HEARTS BOOK CLUB** for girls ages 12-18 meets the last Wed. of every month at 7 p.m. at Hollis Social Library. Hang out with peers who enjoy books like the Twilight series, romance, strong female leads and more, and enjoy snacks and conversation. Mothers are welcome to come with permission from their daughters.

• **THE BOOK CELLAR** in Nashua hosts a book club that meets on the first Wed. of each month, new members always welcome. The Book Cellar is at 34 Northwest Blvd., Nashua, in the Westside Plaza, 881-5570, www.bookcellar-online.com.

• **BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY** book discussion group focuses on current literature on Buddhist topics, meets the second Monday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone with an interest in Buddhist philosophy is invited to join: www.meetup.com/Manchester-Buddhism-Sangha.

• **CANDIA SMYTH PUBLIC LIBRARY** book discussion group meets for friendly one-hour discussion once a month. The library is at 55 High St., Candia, 483-8245, www.smythpl.org.

• **CLASSICS CROWD** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop reads 19th-century British classics and meets every other month to discuss books voted on by consensus. New members always welcome.

• **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** hosts monthly book discussions. Everyone is welcome to come for all or any of the dates. All discussion titles are 25% off until the date of their discussion. All meetings at

7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted. Jan. 2, *Country of the Pointed Firs*, by Sarah Orne Jewett. Feb. 6, Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. March 5, *The Master*, by Colm Toibin. April 2, *Evidence*, by Mary Oliver. May 7, *Freedom*, by Jonathan Franzen. June 4, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, by Jennifer Egan.

• **GOFFSTOWN LIBRARY** evening book group meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m., open to any interested teen or adult.

• **GOFFSTOWN LIBRARY** afternoon book group meets Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., open to any interested teen or adult.

• **HOOKSETT LIBRARY** book group meets the second Wed. each month at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments provided.

• **HOOKSETT LIBRARY** teen book group is for ages 13-18. Usually meets Wed. evenings.

• **HOLLIS SOCIAL LIBRARY** Tuesday morning book group meets the third Tues. of every month at 9:30 a.m. Meet new friends and discuss great books. This book group is sponsored by the library. No sign-up required. Call or visit www.hollis.nh.us/library for the book selection of the month.

• **KELLEY LIBRARY** in Salem hosts a nonfiction book club, always open to new members.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** evening book discussion group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Jan. 12: *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, by Geraldine Brooks. Feb. 9: *The Lace Reader*, by Brunonia Berry. March 8: *Cleopatra: A Life*, by Stacy Schiff. April 12: *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese. May 10: *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows.

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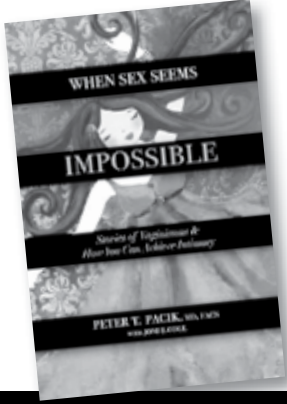

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POP CULTURE:

LIBRARY Brown Bag Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Bring a bag lunch and plan on an enjoyable time. Dec. 27: *A Year in Provence*, by Peter Mayle. Jan. 31: *Bonfire of the Vanities*, by Tom Wolfe. Feb. 28, *The Invisible Wall: A Love Story That Broke Barriers*, by Harry Bernstein. March 27: *Galileo's Daughter*, by Dava Sobel. April 24: *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein. May 29: *The Thirteenth Tale*, by Diane Setterfield. June 26: *Very Valentine*, by Adriana Trigiani.

• **MERRIMACK PUBLIC LIBRARY** hosts a book discussion group at 7 p.m. on the third Wed. of each month from Sept. through June. These programs are free and open to the public, no registration required. Extra copies of each book are usually available during the month before its scheduled discussion date.

• **NASHUA NOVEL READERS** group meets monthly on a Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Music/Art/Media wing of the Nashua Public Library. New members welcome. Thurs., Jan. 12, the group will discuss *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. Call Carol at 589-4610 for details about December and February meetings.

• **PEMBROKE TOWN LIBRARY** book discussion group meets on the second Wed. of each month at 6:30 p.m.

• **POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY** non-fiction book club meets on the first Thurs. of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Pollard Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass. Thurs., Jan. 5, discussing *The Prince* by Niccolò Machiavelli.

• **RODGERS LIBRARY** in Hudson afternoon book discussion group meets on the third Tues. of the month. Books are available at the library; for more info or to add your name to the group mailing list, call 886-6030, e-mail askus@rogerslibrary.org or visit www.rogerslibrary.org.

• **SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY** discussion group meets at 7 p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford. Welcomes older teens and adults to share the books they've recently read.

• **SOCRATES CAFE** meets on the first Wed. of each month 7-8:30 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford, hosted by Rick Branch. New members and curious thinkers are always welcome.

• **TEEN GALLEY GROUP** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop meets monthly. The group will select free books, many in advance of publication, and review them the following month. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Call Sarah Brodin at the store and sign up to reserve a spot.

• **WADLEIGH LIBRARY** in Milford hosts book clubs that meet monthly, newcomers always welcome. Morning book group will meet Thurs., Jan. 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to discuss *Emma* by Jane Austen. Evening book group will meet Tues., Jan. 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to discuss *Skeletons at the Feast* by Chris Bohjalian. Chicks with Sticks book club for grades 7 and up will meet on Thurs., Jan. 5, at 3 p.m. to discuss *Paranormalcy* by Kiersten White; new members and beginning knitters welcome.

• **WARNER AREA BOOK CLUB** meets on certain Sundays at MainStreet BookEnds in Warner. All are welcome; call Jen at 456-3021 or e-mail Jennkane@tds.net to sign up.

• **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** meets on the third Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore for a poetry reading followed by an open mike hosted by Don Kimball. All are welcome; come to listen or to read. See www.poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org or call 332-0732.

• **HYLA BROOK READING SERIES** is held at the Bean Towne Coffee House & Café at 201 Route 111 in Hampstead (beantownecoffee.com) in winter, and at Robert Frost Farm at 122 Rockingham Road in Derry in the spring and summer (http://robertfrostfarm.org). Free and open to the public. An open mike follows the readings. For info, e-mail Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com.

• **HYLA BROOK POETS WORKSHOPS** meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Coffee Factory in Derry. For info, contact Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com.

• **SLAM FREE OR DIE** at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester, 858-3286, includes a poetry open-mike session. Doors open and signups start at 7 p.m., open mike begins around 8 p.m., with featured poets and slams following the open mike. \$3 cover charge. E-mail SlamFreeorDie@gmail.com or call 858-3286.

• **POETS JAM FACTORY** Jam your poetry to live music every Wed. 7:30-10 p.m. at Raxx Billiards, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, ages 18+.

• **OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT** is held monthly at Water Street Bookstore in Exeter, free and open to the public.

• **WRITERS' groups**

• **NHWP BOOK CLUB FOR WRITERS** is a chance for writers to get together four times a year for informal discussions of classic and contemporary literature from a writers' perspective, at various locations around the state. See nhwritersproject.org for meetings in the Upper Valley, Portsmouth and other sites.

• **THE BLANK PAGE** writers' group for all levels meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 in the third-floor conference room at Goffstown Public Library. All are welcome. Call 497-2102 for details.

• **CHRISTIAN WRITERS GUILD** has a Merrimack Valley Word Weavers club that meets the 2nd Mon. of each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Bonhoeffer's Café & Espresso, 8 Franklin St., Nashua. First-time participants are encouraged to attend an orientation class at 6 p.m. For info, contact Clarice James at 578-1860 or wordweaver-snashuanh@comcast.net. See www.christianwritersguild.com/word-weavers.

• **CONCORD WRITERS' GROUP** meets first and third Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the Shakespeare Room of the Concord Public Library. Open to writers of all levels and genres. For more info contact Chris at c.swede@juno.com.

• **HUDSON WRITERS' GROUP** invites beginning and experienced writers to share their work and give feedback to others. This group meets the first Monday of each month 6:30-8:45 p.m. at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson. Call 886-6030 for info.

BOOKS

THE BOOK REPORT

• **Poetry contest:** The Poetry Society of New Hampshire is holding contests for students in elementary school, high school and college. Winners receive prizes and are published in the Society's quarterly magazine. Elementary and high school contests are limited to New Hampshire students. The college contest is open to undergraduates anywhere. For guidelines, visit www.poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org. The college contest deadline is Jan. 30. The other student contests' deadline is March 31.

• **Fun and games:** Play Date NH returns to the Winchell Room of Manchester City Library (405 Pine St.) on Thursday, Dec. 29, for a few hours of board games and card games for ages 12 through 18. The games will be cracked open at 4 p.m. Stop

in to play a favorite, meet fellow enthusiasts, and learn a new game or two — a few experts (including Hippo's Glenn Given) will be there to share their knowledge and groom future gamers. Subsequent dates are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month — Thursday, Jan. 12, and Thursday, Feb. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. The group also hosts a Play Date at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson on the second Saturday of each month. See playdaten.wordpress.com.

• **Power out at the library:** According to its blog (manchesterlibrary.org), the Manchester City Library will have no electricity during a planned upgrade of electrical lines in the area on Tuesday, Dec. 27, or Wednesday, Dec. 28, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Library officials plan to open at 2:30 p.m. on the day of the upgrade. No materials are due back on either of those dates.

—Lisa Parsons

FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ



The Adventures of Tintin

The Adventures of Tintin (PG)

A boy reporter and his dog find mystery and adventure, all thanks to a model ship, in *The Adventures of Tintin*, an animated Steven Spielberg movie that is clearly supposed to be filled with excitement and wonder.

“Supposed to” being the key words in that sentence.

Tintin (voice of Jamie Bell) is a young reporter living in what seems like early 20th-century London and filling the front pages of his newspaper with tales of capturing criminals and solving great mysteries, Scooby Doo-style. Though said newspaper is not the Mom Herald published sporadically on the home office printer, Tintin appears to be about 9 years old. But he lives by himself and works for a living so I suppose he’s, er, older. He is accompanied on his travels by Snowy, his much smarter (though non-verbal) dog. The pair are

together in the marketplace when Tintin spots a meticulously crafted model ship and buys it. Immediately, two other men — an American and a man who we eventually learn is Ivanovich Sakharine (voice of Daniel Craig) — appear to attempt to buy the ship from him. It will bring you nothing but trouble, the American warns. But Tintin knows a good mystery when he hears it. He refuses to sell the ship and heads to his house. But a wacky misadventure with a cat leads to a collision between floor and ship. Though Snowy tries to alert him, Tintin does not notice that something rolls out of the ship and he heads out to follow up on a story about a pick-pocket. When he returns, the ship is missing and he sets out to find it and eventually gets himself abducted by Sakharine, who puts him on a ship headed for points unknown. (Snowy also sneaks on board.)

Onboard, Tintin meets Captain Haddock (voice of Andy Serkis), who is also being held captive. Tintin tries to get the rummy Haddock to sober up enough to figure out

what Sakharine wants with them and the boats. Escapes and chases lead Tintin and Haddock to the desert, where they seek the answer to the mystery which seems to have some connection to Haddock’s ancestors and an encounter his great-so-and-so, Sir Francis Haddock (also Serkis), had with the pirate Red Rackham (also Craig).

That’s really just a slice of the plot — there’s more: stuff about Haddock’s drinking problem, Tintin’s ambition to get the story, that pickpocket and the detectives chasing him ... other stuff I’ve forgotten. There are a lot of details in this story and a lot of them are delivered during scenes of Tintin thinking his way through the puzzle, pondering aloud exposition-filled possibilities for how the mystery of the Unicorn (the name of the ship the model was based on) will unravel. I can see how one might think exposition would be more exciting if delivered by a plucky cartoon boy and a comically boozy ship captain. It isn’t, though.

Here’s what *Tintin* gets right: the mystery adventure with pirates and thieves and stuff. It feels very Encyclopedia Brown, very Nancy Drew (without the girls), very, well, Scooby Doo and the gang. There’s an old-fashioned quality to the story that is successful more often than it isn’t and could unfold into a world-traveling romp.

Visually, *The Adventures of Tintin* also sort of works. This particular form of animation, similar to but better than that of *The Polar Express*, might not make for the most natural- or exciting-looking people but it does a good job of making locations — the ocean, the sands of the desert, a gloomy dock — look interesting. Some of the action sequences real-

ly do flow nicely, with the controlled chaos of a chase scene playing out in a Moroccan town, for example.

The problem with *Tintin* is that there’s nothing else to the action. I found myself not perched on the edge of my seat, but a little bored and waiting for the next scene, even during the most action-heavy chase or fight. Even in 3-D, *Tintin* feels flat — I can see the events on the screen but I have no sense of their having any depth. Or, to put it more directly: I don’t feel anything for these characters. Tintin is a dull, scoldy young lad. He seems less fleshed out here in a movie about his travels than your average Dilbert character does in a four panel strip. I never really understand his motives for taking part in this adventure (yes, he’s a reporter, but how many editors are accepting stories based on model ships?). Meanwhile, the more interesting Haddock is kind of a doofus and Sakharine is a one-note villain. Only the dog seems like a character you might sympathize with — yes, these humans *are* rather dense — but he’s kept pretty definitively in a supporting role.

I don’t have a good sense of what kids might think of all this either. Some of the pretty adventure sequences might be eye-catching. But there isn’t an abundance of humor or wonder on display. And the movie, while only about an hour and 47 minutes, feels long. With nothing to sweep your imagination away, I have a hard time believing that kids — who arguably have a shorter attention span than I do — will stay caught up in this movie.

Since what we’re seeing obviously isn’t real — derring-do is a lot less shocking and awesome when it’s done in cartoon — there has to be some emotion behind it to make it important to us in the audi-

ence, to make us care about the outcome of events. Oddly — since “making us care” is one of Spielberg’s specialties — the movie never connects emotion and action. Like a well-designed, unplugged-in toaster, *The Adventures of Tintin* has style but no warmth. **B-**

Rated PG for adventure action violence, some drunkenness and brief smoking. Directed by Steven Spielberg with a screenplay by Steven Moffat and Edgar Wright & Joe Cornish (from the comics series by Hergé), The Adventures of Tintin is an hour and 47 minutes long and distributed in wide release by Paramount Pictures.

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG-13)

Tom Cruise and the IMF take on a Russian terrorist bent on starting a nuclear war (because retro ’80s is still in) in *Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol*, a movie that has serious fun with explosions and crazy stunts.

The running down a massive skyscraper that you’ve no doubt seen in trailers, for example. Or the blowing up of part of the Kremlin. How necessary these things are to the plot is debatable but they make for nice kaboom-y fun.

Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) is in a Russian prison when we first spot him again. A small crew of IMF agents — Jane (Paula Patton), who is in charge of badass-ness, and Benji (Simon Pegg), who does tech — break him out so they can get his help on their next mission: stealing incriminating information from the

Reviewlets: Snack-sized movie reviews

* Indicates a movie worth seeking out. Previously reviewed movies have grades. For full reviews of most movies here or movies previously released, go to www.hippopress.com.

Arthur Christmas (PG)

James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie. Arthur, son of Santa, finally gets his big toy-delivering moment in this animated tale. **B**

The Descendants (R)

George Clooney, Nick Krause. Clooney stars in the latest film from Alexander Payne (he of the excellent *Election*, *About Schmidt* and *Sideways*). This one takes place in Hawaii as a man deals with his two young daughters and the impending death of his wife. **A-**

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (PG-13)

Rooney Mara, Daniel Craig. The Swedish novel which spawned a Swedish movie now gets a work-over for an American audience. Opens wide on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Happy Feet Two (PG)

Voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams.

A cartoon I didn’t particularly enjoy the first time around gets a second outing. This time Mumbles, the dancing penguin from the first movie, has a son. **C**

Hugo (PG)

Chloe Grace Moretz, Asa Butterfield. The 2007 kids’ book *The Inven-*

tion of Hugo Cabret gets a big-screen adaptation helmed by one Mr. Martin Scorsese. **B+**

J. Edgar (R)

Leonardo DiCaprio, Armie Hammer. Biopic season! The FBI’s J. Edgar Hoover gets the Oscar-bait treatment from director Clint Eastwood. **C+**

Jack and Jill (PG)

Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes. Sandler plays a wealthy Los Angeleno and his twin sister visiting for the holidays in this Thanksgiving comedy. **C**

Margin Call (R)

Zachary Quinto, Kevin Spacey. Money guys freak out as they

realize their investment bank is headed for a fall in this engrossing movie about the early days of the financial crisis. **B+**

Melancholia (R)

Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg. One woman’s sinking depression and the end of the world play out over this long, at times meandering but ultimately fascinating movie. **B**

The Muppets (PG)

Jason Segel, Amy Adams. It’s time to start the music, it’s time to light the lights. It’s time to meet the Muppets in a brand new movie. (Insert screaming frog here). **B+**

New Year’s Eve (PG-13)

Halle Berry, Jessica Biel. And also Ashton Kutcher, Hilary Swank, Katherine Heigl, Lea Michele, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sarah Jessica Parker, Zac Efron, Seth Meyers, Jon Bon Jovi, Josh Duhamel and Hector Elizondo. Enough of us saw last year’s corn syrup-y *Valentine’s Day*, so now this happened. **D**

Puss in Boots (PG)

Voices of Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek. The swashbuckling cat (in boots) returns for this adventure that teams him up with a sultry thief (Kitty Softpaws) and his old friend Humpty Dumpty in an attempt to steal some magic beans from out-

laws Jack and Jill. **B+**

The Sitter (R)

Jonah Hill, Ari Graynor. Against all common sense, a parent leaves her three children with the latest man-boy played by Jonah Hill, who then takes them to a party where he thinks he’s assured a hook-up. **C-**

Tower Heist (PG-13)

Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy. After a Madoff-esque Alan Alda makes off with the retirement funds of his apartment’s staff, the staff, led by Stiller, decides to steal the money back. **B-**

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POP CULTURE:
FILM Continued

Mission Impossible — Ghost Protocol

Kremlin before it can be destroyed.

Yes, this is the present day but apparently Russians make a nice opposing force so...

Things go fine at first — all falsified IDs and wigs and a nifty projector screen that can block off a hallway without anybody knowing it's been blocked off. But when Ethan gets to the cabinets containing the files, he finds the files are empty. And then he hears another voice on his com — one that the Russians can hear as well. Ethan aborts the mission but the Russians are already looking for the interlopers and just as he's about to get away, a massive explosion is unleashed.

When Ethan wakes up, he's handcuffed to a hospital bed and Russian police are telling him that he's going down for the explosion. He escapes the hospital but is later picked up by the Secretary (Tom Wilkinson) who tells him that the president has disavowed the entire IMF and Russia is poised to go to war with the U.S. The only hope for peace is if Ethan — now a fugitive — and his team (also fugitives) can track down the real culprit and convince the Russians that the American government isn't trying to provoke a war. And this is about all the secretary has time to explain before he's assassinated. Ethan is on the run again but now he's joined by IMF analyst Brandt (Jeremy Renner), who helps increase the team's amount of badass-ness.

The baddie here: Hendricks (Michael Nyquist — the original Mikael Blomkvist in the Swedish version of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* series). Hendricks' goal is to provoke a nuclear war on the thinking that a little total-world-destruction is good for the planet once in a while.

I'm not going to say this is the dumbest motivation ever for a villain but it adds an element of crazy that makes Hendricks a little more cartoony, a little more Bond villain and a little less real-world terrorist. And in Ethan Hunt we have a central character who is less than electrifying. Scrappy little Tom Cruise (who turns 50 next year according to IMDb) is not the world's most magnetic tough guy. Renner himself makes a more appealing action hero. But the genius of this kick-punch-fest is that it doesn't really matter. Patton brings the girl power, Pegg is comic relief, Renner is the new guy and Cruise is the face that makes sure the international market will head to the theater (and I'm guessing the movie's locations — Russia, Dubai, India — are also meant to help with that). They all play their parts with snap and give us just enough human emotion to keep things interesting. The quips don't get in the way of the action, and the action is all entertaining enough to add something rather than just fill time between plot points.

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol is not a new kind of action movie, not a daring new approach. But it is high-quality action excitement that pays enough attention to detail to accomplish its core mission of entertaining you for two-plus hours. **B**

Rated PG-13 for disturbing images, violence, sexuality/partial nudity and some thematic elements. Directed by Brad Bird and written by Josh Appelbaum & André Nemec, Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol is two hours and 12 minutes long and distributed by Paramount Pictures.

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13)

Bromantic duo Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law return for more turn-of-the-last-century capering in *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*, an entertaining if not completely successful adventure movie.

Holmes (Downey) is still sleuthing, still unwisely imbibing substances, still making flirty-face with Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams). And she's still working for the mysterious Moriarty (Jared Harris), a man whom Holmes is determined to catch. Watson (Law), engaged in the last movie, is now on the cusp of his wedding. So he thinks Holmes is taking him out for a bachelor party when really Holmes has dragged Watson and Holmes' brother Mycroft (Stephen Fry) to a seedy gambling hall to follow up on a possible Moriarty lead. Holmes thinks a series of bombings across Europe are all related to Moriarty and are part of a plot he has yet to untangle. And he believes a letter he took off Irene might have something to do with it all. So he goes to see the letter's intended recipient, the fortune teller Madame Simza Heron (Noomi Rapace), who works at the casino.

The next day, after a very hungover Watson marries Mary (Kelly Reilly), Holmes decides to pay a little visit to Professor Moriarty and explain, among other things, how Watson is no longer working with him. Moriarty says, essentially, nice try but there's no get-out-of-scheme-free cards in this game, and so Holmes heads to the train. James and Mary Watson will take to their honeymoon to attempt to rescue his old friend from whatever Moriarty has planned. As much as Watson wants to begin his new



Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

married life, he decides to join Holmes in his quest to bring down Moriarty.

Shadows is, in some respects, the opposite of *Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol*. That movie has less than compelling leads and very little in the way of character development but is a tight action flick. *Shadows* is looser, not as to-the-point about where its story is going. But it has in Downey's Holmes and Law's Watson two characters I'd happily watch have beers at a pub and argue over any petty thing. Harris' Moriarty makes a believable opponent for Holmes. As hokey as some of their chess-as-metaphor banter can be, it made the entire idea of a great scheme seem more interesting and lively than it really was. And, as dopey and underbaked as some of the character development can be, I enjoyed it — Holmes' feelings about Watson's marriage, Moriarty's motivations, etc. That both work is an example of how a movie can succeed, despite imperfections, if it gets a least a few of the elements right. **B**

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action and some drug material. Directed by Guy Ritchie and written Michele Mulroney & Kieran Mulroney (from the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows is two hours and nine minutes long and is distributed by Warner Brothers.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G)

The Chipmunks and Chipettes return for an adventure on a cruise ship in *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked*, a movie that some people (parents) will be forced to see.

And for that, I am sorry.

Chipmunks Alvin (voice of Justin Long), Simon (voice of Matthew Gray Gubler) and Theodore (voice of Jesse McCartney) and Chipettes Brittany (voice of Christina Applegate), Eleanor (voice of Amy Poehler) and Jeanette (voice of Anna Faris) are all heading on a family vacation cruise with their human (and live-action) father Dave (Jason Lee). Though Simon tries to convince Dave that now is the time to give the kids a little more independence, Alvin messes up the teachable moment by sneaking into a casino and serving as bad behavior role model for the rest of the group. (I'm sure Carnival Cruise Lines considered this a great opportunity to sneak some advertising into a movie, but the scenes of the kids cavorting through a dance club are enough

to make me never want to book a cruise. A scene featuring two *Jersey Shore* rejects giving sass to the 'ettes makes the squeaky-voiced rodents seem like the least terrifying part of the cruise ordeal.)

Dave punishes the kids by confining their cruise ship fun to shuffleboard but then he falls asleep, giving Alvin time to try that hang-gliding he always wanted to do. Naturally, one thing leads to another and soon all of the Chips are being blown off the boat and into the open ocean. Dave awakes and quickly tries to rescue them but winds up in the drink as well thanks to the fumbings of Ian (David Cross), the villain of the previous movies, who shows up here working as a mascot on the cruise.

The Chipmunks eventually wash ashore on an island and soon the six of them are faced with trying to survive in their new, fame-free environment. Dave and Ian wash up on a different part of the island, which gives them plenty of time to talk about the hurdles and joys of parenting chipmunks.

When valuable lessons aren't being talked at us, they are being demonstrated back in camp Alvin, where Simon is bitten by a spider and, in his delirium, believes he is an adventuresome French explorer named Simone. His recklessness requires Alvin to become the responsible one and his romantic pursuit of Eleanor makes Brittany wonder if she is indeed still the pretty one.

And, intermittently, the various Chips sing.

I think this is what comes of living in a world with no record players. Kids have never had records played too fast for them and then laughed at the novelty. Ha, ha! — end of trick. Now, they have to get their squeaks through these movies and so enough people show up to see them and so they keep making new ones. I like portable music too but is it worth the cost?

Actually, when I was a kid, I loved Alvin and the Chipmunks (and we had a record player) and now I can't remember for the life of me why. Maybe it's one of those things, like cheap boxed mac & cheese, that you hold in high esteem as a kid but just can't enjoy as an adult.

Patience-wearing stories about family relationships interspersed with irritating renditions of mostly grating pop songs? Thanks, Chipmunks, but we already have *Glee*. **C-**

Rated G. Directed by Mike Mitchell and written by Jonathan Aibel & Glenn Berger (from characters by Ross Bagdasarian and Janice Karman), Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked is an hour and 27 minutes long and distributed in wide release by 20th Century Fox.



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Movies outside the cineplex

RED RIVER THEATRES
11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, www.redrivertheatres.org
• *The Descendants* (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 22, at 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 23, at 1, 3:30, 6 & 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 24, at 1, 3:30 & 6 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 25, at 6 & 8:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 26, through Thurs., Dec. 29, at 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.
• *Joyeux Noel* (PG-13, 2006) Thurs., Dec. 22, at 2 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 23, at 2 & 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 24, at 2 & 5 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 25, at 7 p.m.
• *Melancholia* (R, 2011) Mon., Dec. 26, through Thurs., Dec. 29, at 2 & 7 p.m.
• *Young Adult* (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 22, at 2:30, 5:40 & 7:50 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 23, at 1:05, 3:10, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 24, at 1:05, 3:10 & 5:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 25, at 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 26, through Thurs., Dec. 29, at 1:05, 3:10, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.
• *Metropolis* (1927) Sat., Dec. 31, at 7 p.m.
• *Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock* a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., Jan. 17, at 6 p.m.
• *More Than a Month* a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., Feb. 21, at 6 p.m.
• *Hell and Back Again* a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., April 17, at 6 p.m.
• *Strong* a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., May 15, at 6 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL
Main Street in Wilton, wilton-townhalltheatre.com
• *J. Edgar* (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m.
• *Moneyball* (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m.
• *Hugo* (PG, 2011) Sun., Dec. 25, through Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m.
• *Like Crazy* (PG-13, 2011) Sun., Dec. 25, through Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m.
• *The Circus* (1928), a film starring Charlie Chaplin, Sun., Jan. 1, at 4:30 p.m.

FRANCO-AMERICAN CENTRE
Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, www.francoamericancentrenh.com
• Cinema Mardi, on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Film in French with English subtitles.
• *Incendies* (R, 2010) on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.
• *Heartbreaker* (G, 2010) on Tues., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m.
• *L'Auberge Espagnole* (R, 2002) on Tues., March 20, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY
405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• *Toy Story 3* (PG, 2010) Wed., Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.
• *The Man with the Movie Camera* (1929) Tues., Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. Silent film with live musical accompaniment.
• *The Music Never Stopped* (2011) Wed., Jan. 4, at 1 p.m.
• *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Strange Tides* (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Jan. 11, at 1 p.m.
• *Water World* (PG-13, 1995) Wed., Jan. 18, at 1 p.m.
• *The Adjustment Bureau* (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Jan. 25, at 1 p.m.
• *The Conspirator* (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Feb. 1, at 1 p.m.
• *The Kiss* (1929) silent film with musical accompaniment, Tues., Feb. 7, at 6 p.m.
• *Rocky* (PG, 1976) Wed., Feb. 8, at 1 p.m.
• *Time Traveler's Wife* (PG-13, 2009) Wed., Feb. 14, at 1 p.m.
• *The Pelican Brief* (PG-13, 1993) Wed., Feb. 15, at 1 p.m.
• *Back to the Future* (PG, 1985) Wed., Feb. 22, at 1 p.m.
• *Family Movie Afternoon* Mon., Feb 27, at 2 p.m.
• *African Cats* (G, 2011) Wed., Feb. 29, at 1 p.m.
• *Hangman's House* (1928) silent film with live musical accompaniment, Tues., March 6, at 6 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY
76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• *Kung Fu Panda 2* (PG, 2011) Fri., Dec. 23, at 3 p.m.
• *Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows Part 2* (PG-13, 2011) Fri., Dec. 30, at 3 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, www.concordpubliclibrary.net
• *Soul Surfer* (PG, 2011) Wed., Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.
NHTI
Sweeney Auditorium, 31 College Drive, Concord, 271-7185, www.nhti.edu
• **Friday Night Film Series**, Fri., Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.
• **Friday Night Film Series**, Fri., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY
NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, www.nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for the library's film line, a schedule of upcoming movies. Films subject to change. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted in the theater.
• *The Tempest* (PG-13, 2010)

Tues., Dec. 27, at 7 p.m.
POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY
401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass., 978-970-4120, www.pollardml.org
• Independent film night on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Films are not rated.
• *Karen Cries on the Bus* (NR, 2011) Thurs., Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, www.themusichall.org. Some of these films are being screened at Music Hall Loft, at 131 Congress St. See website for details.
• *Martha Marcy May Marlene* (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 26, through Fri., Dec. 30, at 7 p.m.
• *Dolphin Tale* (PG, 2011) Tues., Dec. 27, through Fri., Dec. 30, at 1 p.m.

NEWBURYPORT SCREENING ROOM
82 State St., Newburyport, Mass., 978-462-3456, www.newburyportrmovies.com
• *The Whale* (G, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m.
• *Into the Abyss* (NR, 2011) Fri., Dec. 23, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 25, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 26, through Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 30, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 31, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 1, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 2, through Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m.
• *Another Happy Day* (R, 2011) Fri., Jan. 6, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 7, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 8, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 9, through Thurs., Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m.
• *The Big Year* (PG, 2011) Fri., Jan. 13, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 14, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 15, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 16, through Thurs., Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m.
• *The Mill and The Cross* (NR, 2011) Fri., Jan. 20, at 6:45 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 21, at 4:45, 6:45 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 22, at 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 23, through Thurs., Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m.
• *Tinker, Tailor, Solider, Spy* (R, 2011) Fri., Jan. 27, through Thurs., Feb. 9: Fridays at 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Saturdays at 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Sundays at 4:45 & 7:30 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

THE COLONIAL THEATRE
95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, www.thecolonial.org
• *The Way* (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 26, through Wed., Dec. 28, at 7 p.m.

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Nite Roundup

Local music & nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

• **Occupy jazz:** The weekly after-work jazz gathering is “sit-in friendly” — in other words musicians are welcome to join the regular trio, led by a piano player who’s sat in with a lot of big names himself, including Chet Baker. If the thought of sharpening your Wynton Marsalis skills doesn’t set you off, a plate of saltimbocca followed by tiramisu and espresso is a good second choice, no? Attend Jazz Night with the Ferdinando Argenti Trio on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 6 p.m. at Fratello’s, 155 Dow St. in Manchester, www.fratellos.com.

• **House band:** A local hard rock band’s residency at a newly opened Nashua nightclub provides many chances to mix things up — play unplugged, work in an obscure cover, try out a new song or two. Combine that with a well-oiled machine’s wall-rattling ability to turn things up to 11, and you have the makings of a good night out. See Leaving Eden on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 8 p.m. at Backstage Bar & Grille, 56 Canal St. in Nashua, www.leavingeden.com.

• **Holiday duck:** For those who hear “season’s greetings” and think of pagan bacchanals or New Year’s plans, a few hours of tasty guitar licks and someone singing “Ain’t Superstitious” is probably just what the doctor ordered. Or maybe you’d simply enjoy a young blues band with a penchant for extended jams covering Clapton, the Dead and Dylan, part of a Christmas Eve family dinner gathering. See Sitting Ducks on Saturday, Dec. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at Fody’s Tavern, 9 Clinton St. (Railroad Square) in Nashua, www.fodystavern.com.

• **Joyful jam:** The Black Brimmer celebrates the holiday season with a bash hosted by Take 4 and featuring several other local musicians. The downtown Manch Vegas hub is in a giving mood, with lots of goodies to hand out, including a big prize at midnight, and vodka models toting sample trays. But the big fun is seeing who shows up to join in the onstage free-for-all. Attend the Annual Holiday All-Star Jam on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 6 p.m. at the Black Brimmer, 1087 Elm St. in Manchester, www.blackbrimmer.com.

• **Spirit of the season:** A local orchestra rings in the holiday with an evening of family favorites, including traditional songs and festive new favorites. After singing along to “Silent Night” and “Noel,” Cliff Blake will read “The Night Before Christmas” and utter the words every parent enjoys hearing — “to all a good night.” The Pops style concert includes a gift basket raffle. See the Strafford Wind Symphony on Friday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St. in Rochester. Tickets are \$7 & \$12 at www.rochesteroperahouse.com.

New Riders of the Purple Sage stop by

Country rock pioneers arrive at Tupelo

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Few bands distilled the essence of Northern California’s mid-to-late ’60s music scene like New Riders of the Purple Sage. The group began life as a side project of the Grateful Dead, guitarist Jerry Garcia on pedal steel joined by John “Marmaduke” Dawson and David Nelson, both members of pre-Dead groups with Garcia. Propelled by songwriter Robert Hunter’s lyrics, the Dead were moving from long space jams to a more countrified sound.

“After all those years of mind-gumming psychedelics,” said the band’s manager in 1969, the Dead were “beginning to crave the normal.” Nelson was both an early collaborator with Garcia and a close friend, serving as best man at his first wedding. He was also a frequent houseguest; Nelson remembers being awakened from naps on the couch with news that “the boys,” Phil Lesh and Bob Weir, were stopping by for vocal rehearsals.

“Phil and Bobby would sit at the guitar and piano and sing these songs,” Nelson recalled recently from his Northern California home. “That was when I first heard stuff like ‘Brokedown Palace,’ ‘Cumberland’ and ‘High Times.’ These guys were really laying in and trying it. It wasn’t quite up to the bluegrass singers, with a high tenor singer able to nail it and all that, but they were doing it in their own way and going for it [with] really deep and elaborate harmonies.”

Nelson and Dawson would contribute to the breakthrough *Workingman’s Dead* and its follow-up, *American Beauty*. The two records helped move the Dead from cult band to institution — but success wasn’t a given.

“It took a lot of courage ... the pop thing at the time was to orchestrate it loud,” Nelson says. “I remember the first few gigs in San Francisco just trying it out and being so concerned that it had a chance of falling flat, because audiences would be expecting us to be an extension of the Grateful Dead [but] even louder and bigger — but we were quieter. To my amazement, people just shut up and listened.”

After a couple of years opening shows backed by Garcia, Lesh and Dead drummer Mickey Hart, a fixed NRPS lineup came into focus: Dawson, Nelson, drummer Spencer Dryden, bass player Dave Torbert and steel guitarist Buddy Cage (though Garcia played on the band’s 1971 debut). Their Bakersfield-meets-Haight-Ashbury sound informed the style of countless cosmic cowboys who followed them.

In 1983, Nelson and Cage both departed, effectively ending the band, though Dawson would carry on the name with other musicians; the official breakup came in 1997. Nelson moved comfortably to other projects. A veteran of countless



groups in the early ’60s — “three months with a band would seem like a lifetime,” he recalls — he played bluegrass, Zydeco and country rock in the ensuing decades.

Two members of Cage’s band suggested he reunite with Nelson and revive NRPS in 2005. Overtures were made and dates booked. Dawson’s failing health precluded his participation, though he gave the project his blessing.

Nelson remembers the band’s first reunion gigs less than fondly: “Almost every song was a train wreck,” he says.

In the end it didn’t matter. Crowds “dug the fact that we were playing off the cuff, we weren’t trying to reproduce something, we were actually playing with and off each other, in the moment,” Nelson says. “The audience doesn’t look at it like a musician ... every performance has been a little better and it just keeps going up from there.”

The band released a studio album, *Where I Come From*, in 2009. Robert Hunter wrote seven of the record’s 12 songs. The old friends have an easy partnership. Nelson once told Hunter he felt like he could order up songs “like cheeseburgers.” The songwriter enjoyed the analogy — including it in his book, *Box of Rain*. “Here’s one with no onions,” he wrote.

In the mid-90s, when Nelson was working with his own band, he wrote to Hunter: “Hey, how ’bout more cheeseburgers?” Hunter responded by asking him to send music.

“It was uncanny,” Nelson recalls. “In every phrase of the lead, I’d put an instrument for what I imagined the vocal to be and he’d match them syllable for syllable.”

When NRPS reunited, Hunter sent Nelson some unsolicited lyrics.

“He must have heard about it,” Nelson says. Hunter’s stake in the band goes



New Riders of the Purple Sage, now (at top) and then (above). Courtesy photo.

back to the beginning. According to Dead biographer Dennis McNally, he was the band’s first bass player — “for about 20 minutes.” Nelson, though, insists that distinction belongs to Bob Matthews.

But Hunter definitely gave them their Old West moniker.

“We were in a total quagmire about the name of the band. Garcia really didn’t want it to be Jerry Garcia and Friends; he insisted on being a sideman,” Nelson says. “When you need a name, it deteriorates quickly to a lot of funny stuff. Jerry came up with The Murdering Punks, but in the not so good summer of ’69 with Charles Manson, it was not a good idea.”

Hunter suggested Riders of the Purple Sage, but Nelson pointed out that Foy Willing led a band with that name in the 1940s, and instead offered a slight modification.

“They said I just liked bands with ‘new’ at the beginning because I was in New Delhi River Band, and I always liked New Lost City Ramblers,” Nelson says. “But anyway — that was it!”

New Riders of the Purple Sage

When: Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 8 p.m.

Where: Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road in Londonderry

Tickets: \$25 at www.tupelohall.com

One-man band

For Tristan Omand, music is all that matters

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

Tristan Omand writes with the ferocity of a young Bob Dylan; there are over 100 songs in his catalog, and 50 or so more in progress. He's never without a supply of Mead pocket notebooks and Uni-ball pens.

"I'm always working on new ones," he said during a recent conversation at the Shaskeen backroom bar, after a set that included three written in just the past week.

The wiry 25-year-old performs with an intensity that makes one forget it's just him and his guitar onstage, and his themes resonated with the big Thursday night crowd, who sang along to several songs. The grey-limned optimism of lines like "as this madness ensues, I will wait to be born" and "I am broke, but I ain't broken" were countered by the percolating rage of "Panhandling in a Ghost Town" and other originals.

Omand closed the set with "Broken Hearted Woman," which moved with a punk rock tempo and deftly distilled the quixotic hope present in many of his songs: "The sun is killing my eyes, but I keep walking into it," he sang, expressing confidence that the journey "will carry me to where I need to be."

But the rage of disenfranchisement is never far. Toward the song's end, Omand nearly spit out, "I'm hardly on the path but I can find my way, and I'll buy my happiness back at any cost," stepped back from the microphone and glared, a bracing cocktail of defiance and determination.

Again, Dylan comes to mind — "I'll know my song well before I start singin'" in "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall." But it's Townes Van Zandt who provided the evening's only non-original. Omand made the ode to open carry outlaws "Poncho and Lefty" his own, turning the laconic ballad into a ramble.

Troubadours of the past provide his inspiration.

"I've always been enamored with guys like Hank Williams and Johnny Cash," he says. "It's one of the oldest things, the minstrel in the street." Omand updates the formula, akin to Billy Bragg, or perhaps John Prine with a shot of Red Bull; it's reflected on his first full-length record, *Tolled Stories*, released last spring. "I didn't want to write about relationships, I wanted to write about goals. What's the next step after this?"

Someone once said that success in music requires loving the worst parts, a lesson Omand has learned well. "There are bars where you're just background noise; a crowd of people cheers and you realize it's because the Bruins scored a goal, they're not paying any attention to you," he says. "But for every handful of gigs like that, you get one that feels right, where you're the only thing going on in the room."

He played more than 70 shows in 2011. In the spring, Omand drove south, playing in New York City and the Washington, D.C., metro area, a dozen stops total, including Nashville, New Orleans, North Carolina and Alabama. He hopes to expand in 2012, doubling the number of dates and heading farther west.

"There's a lot of adventure to be had, peo-



Tristan Omand. Courtesy photo.

ple to meet, places to go," he says.

The self-taught guitarist began playing at age 10 and has been doing live shows almost constantly since. Early on, he looked for other musicians to play with, but no one shared his commitment.

"I always thought being in a band was my way to express myself, but it was hard to find people who were willing to play at the rate I was," he says. "To do what I do, you have to blow off friends and family. By myself, I decide where I practice, when and where I play. I don't know if I'm stubborn, but it's the best way for me."

It's required a lot of hard work — more than 150 solo shows and 400 band gigs.

"I think back to the long nights of driving, sleeping on strangers' floors and in vans, eating crap food and being strung out on caffeine and driving five hours to play a gig and making gas money," he says. "But I can't identify with any other profession or career. Over the past year, I've put even more of my time and effort into it; it's made me a curmudgeon of sorts."

He's held what he dismissively terms "a lot of Joe jobs so I don't have to live in the gutter" — supermarkets, loading boxes in warehouses, that sort of thing — but for Omand, music is everything.

"A lot of people say, 'music's tough, so I'm going to get an IT degree, to have a backup plan.' For me, there is no backup plan. This is the plan, there's nothing else. I'm not a plumber; I play guitar and I write songs. That's where I feel at home. Everything else is jumbled and leading up to the moment where I get on stage. That's when the world melts away."

Omand is pleased by what he sees as an emerging acoustic roots community.

"I don't want to call it a scene; that seems kind of snobby. It's a movement. You get encouragement from your peers. I love going out and seeing a bunch of familiar faces. It's great that people are putting on shows, opening coffeehouses. That spirit has to keep on going."

Tristan Omand

When: Thursday, Dec. 29, at 8:30 & 11:30 p.m.

Where: J's Tavern, 63 Union Square in Milford

More: Listen to Tristan Omand at www.tristanomand.com

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NITE

A Chad LaMarsh Christmas

New album to help books-for-kids charity

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Chad LaMarsh, a guitarist, collaborated with a few local musicians to record his new holiday album, *Bundle of Books: A Gift for Reading*. All proceeds from the album will benefit Bundles of Books, an organization started by LaMarsh's father Chuck in Georgia in 1996. The charity raises money to purchase books and deliver them to children in need during the week of Christmas.

"Literature is a passion of my father's," LaMarsh said, adding that the elder LaMarsh served as a high school math teacher for 10 years before his retirement. "The man says he's read 540 books in his lifetime."

This year LaMarsh is working with Got Books, a Massachusetts-based used book reseller, to put literature into the hands of New Hampshire and Massachusetts children, including those served by the Webster House and Boylston Home in Manchester and Bridges Shelter and Nashua Children's Home in Nashua.

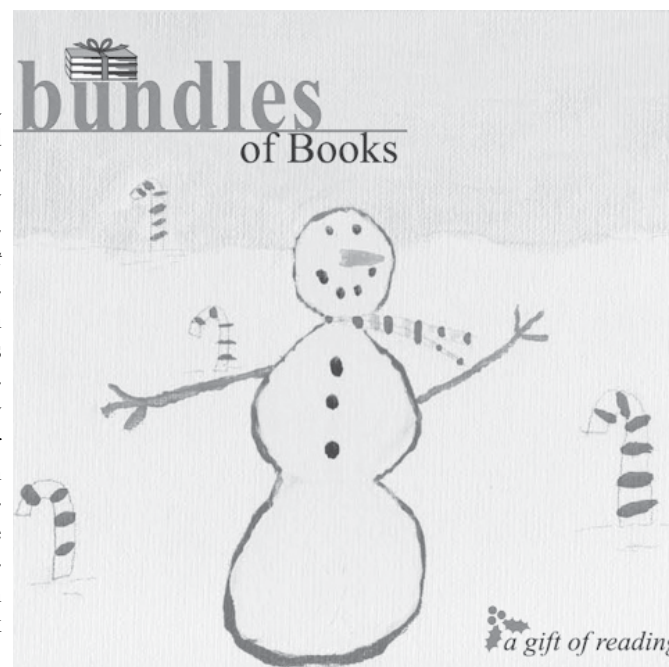
LaMarsh has been involved with his father's charity from the beginning, donating much of his album sales to the cause. LaMarsh started putting his Christmas album together a year and a half ago and kicked production into high gear as Bundles of Books' 15th anniversary approached. This is the first year he has made a CD specifically for the cause.

"I basically asked everybody what their favorite Christmas songs are and what they like to sing," LaMarsh said. While he sings lead on "Deck the Halls" and "Happy Christmas," LaMarsh assumed the role of producer for the CD. Local musicians Nate Comp, Josh Logan, Lisa Guyer, Carter Holland, Demetri Papanicolaou, Dave Stefanelli, Chris Lester, Crystal Patten, Mirko Tani, Joe Pierog and LaMarsh's 11-year-old daughter, Chaz Marie, all lend their talents to the eight-song album. Chaz Marie also designed the album cover.

Acoustic guitar is the main instrument heard on *Bundle of Books: A Gift for Reading* but LaMarsh there's also electric guitar, percussion (including bongos), mandolin and cello.

The family-friendly album features "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy," "We Three Kings," "Christmas Time Is Here," "Carol Of The Bells," "God Bless Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Silent Night," "White Christmas," and "Little Drummer Boy."

"Parents love it, kids love it, grandparents love it," LaMarsh noted. "That's



what I wanted everybody to feel. I wanted it to be something everybody could listen to."

Chaz Marie LaMarsh sings lead on the first and the last song on the album, the first being "Carol of the Bells" and the last a song she and her father wrote together when she was 8.

"We were goofing around a couple of years ago and I asked her to write down her favorite things about Christmas ... going sledding, making snowmen, Santa, being with family and friends," LaMarsh said. "I pieced it together and played it for Lisa Guyer [of Mama Kicks] and she said I should do something with it."

"Being a children's charity I was happy to have her voice at the beginning and end of the CD," he said.

LaMarsh hopes to raise as much money as possible for Bundles of Books with his holiday album but is also looking for a sponsor so he will be able to produce more copies of the CD. He has already sold 800 of the 1,000 copies he started out with. Some have donated \$10 for the CD; others have given a lot more, LaMarsh said.

LaMarsh said he would like to purchase enough books to create libraries at the organizations served by Bundles of Books.

"The goal at the moment is to become a more year-round organization instead of just the holidays," he said. "We want to impress on children how important it is to read all the time."

Visit bundlesofbooks.org.

Bundle of Books: A Gift for Reading

Available at all Chad LaMarsh, Lisa Guyer, and Josh Logan (Thursday, Dec. 22, at Fody's in Nashua; Tuesday, Dec. 27, at Murphy's Taproom in Manchester) concerts, at Free Range Fish and Lobster in Manchester and at the Meat House in Bedford. Donations can also be sent to Bundles of Books, P.O. Box 10092, Bedford, NH, 03110.

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• **CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com, will be held on Sat., Dec. 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. Beginners are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

• **WORLD MUSIC** will be performed by the Wildest Dreams Worldbeat Music Ensemble at Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, on Sun., Jan. 8, from 4 to 5 p.m. The show is free and open to the public. Call 673-2288 or email library@amherst.lib.nh.us to reserve a spot.

Bowling

• **BOUTWELL'S BOWLING CENTER** 152 N. State St., Concord, 224-0941.

• **LAKE SIDE LANES** 2171 Candia Road, Manchester, 627-7722, lakesidelanes.com

• **LEDA LIGHTHOUSE** 340 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-4884, ledalanes.com

• **KING BOWLING LANES** 751 Mast Road, Manchester, 623-9215, kingslanes.com

• **MERRIMACK TEN PIN CENTER** 698 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-0989, 8:30 a.m. to midnight.

• **SPARE TIME** 216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, stadiumten-pin.net

• **TONY'S LANES** 244 Elm St., Milford, 673-6673.

Chess

• **CHESS CLUB** open to players of all levels, 7 to 9 p.m. Fridays at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Call 589-4600.

Entertainment

• **POETS JAM** will be held at The Jam Factory at Raxx Billiards, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The jam is 18+.

Karaoke

• **603 LOUNGE** 14 W. Hollis St., Nashua, 821-5260, Thursdays at 8 p.m.

• **ANTHONY'S PIER** The Pier at Weirs Beach, 263 Lakeside Ave., Laconia, 366-5855, Thursdays 5 p.m. w/Bobby Freedom

• **BEIJING & TOKYO** 61 S. Main St., Concord, 228-0888, Fridays and Saturdays at 9 p.m.

• **CENTRAL WAVE** 368 Central Ave., Dover, 742-9283, Mondays. and Wednesdays at 9 p.m.

• **CITY SPORTS GRILLE** 216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, Thursdays at 9 p.m.

• **CHEN'S** 122 E. Broadway, Derry, 437-8338, Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.

• **CHEN YANG LI** 520 South St., Bow, 228-8508, Thursdays at 9 p.m.

• **CHOP SHOP PUB** 920 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-7706, Wednesdays at 8 p.m. w/ Matty R

• **DANIEL STREET TAVERN** 111 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 430-1011, Fridays and Sundays at 9 p.m.

• **DOVER BRICKHOUSE** 2 Orchard St., Dover, 749-3838, Sundays at 9 p.m.

• **ELEMENT LOUNGE** 1055 Elm St., Manchester, 627-2922, Sundays at 6 p.m. and Tuesdays at 8 p.m. with DJ Sharon.

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Ballroom dancers of all skill levels are invited to boogie down to holiday music at the Christmas Eve Open House at Queen City Ballroom (queencityballroomnh.com), 21 Dow St., Manchester, on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. Dance styles taught at the ballroom include West Coast Swing, Argentine Tango, Hustle, Salsa, Bolero and Samba. Baked goods and hot mulled cider will be served at the open house. Singles and couples are welcome. Admission is free. Contact the ballroom at 622-1500 or QnCityBalm@aol.com.

577-9015, Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

• **GATE CITY PUB** 56 Canal St., Nashua, 598-8256 Thursdays 9 p.m. to close with DJ Bernie D

• **GIUSEPPE'S** 312 Daniel Webster Highway, Meredith, 279-3313, every other Thursday at 10 p.m.

• **HOLIDAY'S BAR & GRILL** 346 Hooksett Road, Auburn, 483-0880, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

• **THE HONEY POT** 920 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-2013, Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. with The Wiz

• **JADE DRAGON LOUNGE** 515 DW Hwy., Merrimack Commons, 424-2280, Thursday through Saturday 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

• **KILLARNEY'S** 9 Northeastern Blvd., 888-1551, Tuesdays, 9 p.m. to midnight, DJ Bernie D

• **LAFAYETTE CLUB** Manchester, 623-9323, Thursdays at 9 p.m. w/ DJ Lance

• **MILANO'S SPORTS BAR** 1 Broad St., Nashua, Saturdays and Sundays at 8 p.m. w/ DJ Bernie D

• **NEW WA TOY** 611 Mast Road, Manchester, 688-1088, Thursdays and Saturdays 8 p.m. to midnight

• **JONATHON'S LOUNGE** at Park Place Lanes, 16 Rockingham Road, Windham, 898-4422, Monday through Friday at 8 p.m.

• **THE PAGE** 172 Hanover St., Portsmouth, 436-0004, Thursdays at 9 p.m.

• **PIT ROAD LOUNGE** 388 Loudon Road, Concord, 226-0533, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9 p.m.

• **PRIME TIME** 620 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-7230, Thursdays at 9 p.m.

• **RICK'S ON MILL POND**, Route 125, Kingston, 642-3353, Fridays 7 to 10 p.m.

• **ROCKO'S** 253 Wilson Ave., Manchester, 626-5866, Friday nights at 9 p.m.

• **SLADE'S** 4 W. Hollis St., Nashua, 886-1334, Tuesday through Friday at 9 p.m.

• **STEVE-N-JAMES TAV-ERN** 187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 434-0600, Thursdays 8 p.m. w/ DJ Sharon Mulrennan.

• **STUDIO 99 115 Main St., Nashua, 562-5179.** Piano karaoke first Thursday of the month 7 p.m., w/ Elise MacDonald. \$3 suggested donation.

• **TANDY'S TOP SHELF** One Eagle Square, Concord,

• **THEO'S RESTAURANT** 102 Elm St., Manchester, 669-4678, Wednesdays, 7:30 -10:30 p.m.

Scrabble

• **HOLLIS SOCIAL LIBRARY** 2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, for adults every Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Invite a favorite Scrabble partner to come with you, or meet new opponents. Bring a Scrabble board if you have one.

• **BEDFORD LIBRARY** Richmond Room, 2 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-2300, second Wednesday of the month, 7-9 p.m.

Singles events

• **BYOB SINGLES DANCE** every Friday, 8 p.m. to midnight at Daniels Hall, Route 4 in Nottingham. Casual dress, free buffet, and drink setups, smoking outside on patio. Entertainment by dancing DJs JoAnn and Carol. Cost is \$12, 942-8525, singlesdanceparties.com.

• **SINGLES DANCE** will be hosted by Together of NH at The Castleton, 92 Indian Rock Road, Windham, on Fri., Dec. 30 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served until 8:30 p.m. at the business casual dance. Tickets cost \$12 (\$15 after 9 p.m.) at the door.

Trivia nights

• **BARLEY HOUSE** 132 North Main St., Concord, 228-6363, Wednesdays 8-10 p.m.

• **BO'S RIVERSIDE** at Milly's, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, 625-4444, Thursday, 8:30 p.m.

• **CHEERS** 17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, Fridays 9 p.m.

• **HART'S TURKEY FARM** 233 DW Hwy., Meredith, 279 6212, Thursdays 6 p.m.

• **JJ BOOMERS** 705 Pawtucket Blvd., Lowell, 978-970-3159, Wednesdays 8 p.m.

• **O'BRIEN'S SPORTS BAR** 118 Main St., Nashua, 718-8604, Mondays 9 p.m.

• **PATRICK'S PUB & EAT-ERY** 18 Weirs Road, Gilford, 293-0841, Mondays 7 p.m.

• **PEDDLER'S DAUGHTER** 48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, Tuesdays 9 p.m.

• **PRIME TIME SPORTS BAR & GRILL** 620 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-7231, Wednesdays 9 p.m.

• **SHASKEEN** 909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, theshaskeen.com, Mondays 8 p.m.

• **STRANGE BREW TAV-ERN** 88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292, strangebrewtav-ern.net, Thursdays 8 p.m.

• **WILD ROVER** 21 Kosciuszko St., Manchester, 669-7722, wil-drover.com, last Monday of every month at 7 p.m. w/ Frank and Joe.

• **WHIPPERSNAPPERS** 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 434-2660, open mike on Mondays at 8:30 p.m.

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Across

1. Hansard of The Frames

5. Mama of Mamas & Papas

9. Misguided Coldplay song?

13. John Sebastian's ___ Spoonful

15. 80s singer/harmonica player Lewis

16. Ani DiFranco 'Outta Me, ___ You'

17. Soulful 'Right As Rain' Brit
18. Dire Straights 'Brothers In ___'

19. Female metal singer Shamaya

20. 'Sultans Of Swing' band (4,7)

23. Cat Stevens 'Morning ___ Broken'

24. Travelin' Wilbury Petty

25. David Lee Roth '___ And Smile' (3,2)

27. 'Summon In Thunder' Seattle metal band

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14		15				16			
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60			61		62					63			
64					65					66			
67					68					69			

30. 'Blister In The Sun' Violent ___

32. Elvis Costello producer Nick

33. What OneRepublic does right beforethey 'Stare'

35. Sublime "I ___ two joints in the morning"

38. 'Year Of The Cat' producer Parsons

39. Rolling Stones 'Under My ___'

41. Pop punkers Simple ___

42. Peter Murphy 'God ___'

44. Ozzfest 'Evolve' rockers

45. '30 Seconds To Mars' Shannon

46. "You left me just when I ___ you most"

48. Guess Who '___ Eyes'

50. Golden Earring '___ Love'

51. Motorhead's 'Spades'

52. Genesis '___ De Sac'

53. Springsteen 'Tougher ___' (4,3,4)

60. Mick Jagger, e.g.

12/15

H	E	W	A	S		S	A	R	A		G	O	L	A
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A	L	L	Y		H	O	L	D		T	E	N	T	H

62. To leave out details in interview

63. AC/DC 'Whole ___ Rosie'

64. Gaye And Terrell 'What You ___ Me'

65. Kiss song that makes a pledge?

66. Death metal god

67. Cannibal Corpse 'Hung And ___'

68. Boys II Men were on a 'Bend-ed' one

69. Guitarist Knopfler

Down

1. What Cream was, on '66 hit

2. CCR cover on Tesla's 'Five Man Acoustical Jam'

3. Beatles 'Don't ___ Change'

4. Producer/Chic guitarist Rodgers

5. Elvis 'Good Luck ___'

6. Jimmy Cliff pal Lewis

7. 18-wheeled equipment mover

8. Armenian rockers ___ Of A Down

9. Keb' Mo' 'Loola ___'

10. "People say she's crazy, she got diamonds ___ of her shoes" (2,3,5)

11. Video Peter Gabriel won Grammy for

12. What #1 hit does to the charts

14. What successful teen rockers leave

21. Tori Amos song w/breakfast?

22. Killers 'Town' on 2nd release

26. Cult 'Sonic ___'

27. The Beatles were 'Fixing' one

28. Unrelated Ramones & Glen

- Campbell classic (1,5,4)

29. What The Used did to their 'Pieces'

30. New ___ Glory

31. 'Business As Usual' hip-hoppers

32. Sheryl Crow 'Leaving ___ Vegas'

34. Clinic 'Walking With ___'

36. Pop rocker Voegele

37. Roxy Music co-founder Brian

40. Ruin recording through ineptitude

43. Might get a nosebleed one

47. 'When You're In Love With A Beautiful Woman' band (2,4)

49. Go-Gos 'Head Over ___'

50. Area rocker lives before moving to the city

51. "I'll get all my papers and smile ___ sky" Who (2,3)

52. Defunct New York venue

54. Peter Cetera "I am ___ who would fight for your honor" (1,3)

55. Strokes 'Last ___'

56. B-52s "___ if you want to"

57. 'Mystery Lady (Songs Of Billie Holiday)' jazz singer James

58. 'Fade Into You' Mazzy ___

59. What terrible album will do

61. Guitarist Nugent

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Written By: Todd Santos

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KISSING at midnight?



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[yellow tail]
bubbles



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Bedford
Bedford Village Inn (BVI)
2 Olde Bedford Way, 472-2001

Belmont
The Lodge at Belmont
Route 106, 877-872-2501
Top of the Town
88 Ladd Hill Rd, 528-3244
Vineyards Restaurant
171 DW Highway

Boscawen
Alan’s
133 N. Main St., 753-6631

Bow
Chen Yang Li
520 South St. 228-8308

Brookline
The Loft at the Grange
12 Main St., 315-9423

Candia
Henderson’s Pickin’ Parlor
179 Raymond Rd, 483-5001

Concord
The Barley House
132 N. Main St., 228-6363
Green Martini
6 Pleasant St., 223-6672
Hermanos
11 Hills Ave., 224-5669
Loudon Road Restaurant and Pit Road Lounge
388 Loudon Rd, 226-0533
Makris
354 Sheep Davis, 225-7665
Penuche’s Ale House
6 Pleasant St., 228-9833
The Red Blazer
72 Manchester St., 224-4101

Thursday, Dec. 22
Auburn
Holiday’s: Nicole Murphy

Candia
Henderson’s Pickin’ Parlor: acoustic open mike

Concord
Green Martini: open mike w/ Steve Naylor
Hermanos: Rich Gardzina
Tandy’s: DJ

Dover
Barley Pub: bluegrass

Allenstown
Ground Zero
48 Allenstown Rd.

Amherst
Club Comedy at Amherst Country Club
72 Ponemah Road, 673-9908

Auburn
Auburn Pitts
167 Rockingham Rd, 622-6564
Holidays Bar and Grill
346 Hooksett Road, 483-0880

Barrington
Chip ‘N Run
Pub Nippo Lake
Golf Course, 550 Province Rd. 664-2030

Barnstead
Barnstead Music Hall
96 Maple St., 640 Central Ave.

Dover
American Legion Post 8
Barley Pub
328 Central Ave., 742-4226
Dover Elks Lodge
282 Durham Road
Dover Bowl
887 Central Ave., 742-9632
Dover Brick House
2 Orchard St., 749-3838
11th Frame Bar
887 B Central Ave., 742-9632
Fury’s Publiick House
312 DW Highway, 617-3633
Jimmy’s Sports Bar
15 Mechanic St., 740-4477
Kelley’s Row
421 Central Ave., 750-7081
The Loft at Strafford Farms
58 Route 108, 743-3045
RJ’s
83 Washington St.
Roger’s Pizza
869 Central Ave., 742-9870
Station House
11 Fourth St., 743-4489
Top of the Chop
One Orchard St., 740-0006

Durham
Acorns Restaurant
15 Strafford Ave., 862-2815

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch
Windymere Dr., 736-9656

Epping
American Legion
232 Calef Hwy. (Rt. 125)
Holy Grail Food & Spirits
64 Main St., 679-9559

Exeter
Shooter’s Pub
10 Columbus Ave., 772-3856

Franklin
Artemis Event Center
20 Canal St., 934-2000

jam w/ Steve Roy
Brick House: B.A. Can-ning, Beatnik Jr., The Mallett Brothers Band
Kelley’s Row: DJ Eva-redy
RJ’s: DJ J-Smooth
Station House: open mike w/ Dave Nappy Band

Gilford
Patrick’s: Sev

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Matt and Aaron
Village Square: DJ

Gilford
Beans & Greens
245 Intervale Road-Rte 11B, 293-2853
Ellacoya Barn & Grille
2667 Lakeshore Rd, 293-8700
Gunstock Ski Area
719 Cherry Valley, 293-4341
Patrick’s
18 Weirs Road, 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle
25 Main St., 497-8230
Wa Toy
611 Mast Road, 668-1088

Hampstead
The Pasta Loft
220 E. Main St., 378-0092
Route 111 Village Square
472 State St., 329-6879

Hampton
Boardwalk Inn
139 Ocean Blvd., 929-7400
Breakers By the Sea
409 Ocean Blvd, 926-7702
La Bec Rouge
73 Ocean Blvd, 926-5050
Old Salt
409 Lafayette Rd, 926-8322
Sea Shell Stage
on Ocean Blvd.
Ron’s Landing
379 Ocean Blvd, 929-2122,
Wally’s Pub
144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954
Whales Tales
169 Ocean Blvd, 967-4771

Henniker
Daniel’s
Main St., 428-7621
Pat’s Peak Sled Pub
24 Flander’s Road, 888-728-7732
The Henniker Junction
24 Weare Rd., 428-8511

Hillsborough
American Legion Post 59
538 West Main St.

Hollis
Alpine Grove
19 S. Depot Road, 882-9051

Hooksett
Asian Breeze
1328 Hooksett Rd, 621-9298
Deerhead Sportsman Club
314 Londonderry Turnpike, 623-9083

Hudson
AJ’s Sports Bar & Grill
11 Tracy Lane, 718-1102
JD Chaser’s
2B Burnham Rd, 886-0792
King’s Court
222 Central St., 821-5100

Laconia
Pitman’s Freight Room: Charlie Jennison Quartet

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: John Paul and Train Wreck

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Take 4
Club 313: DJ
Element: DJ Jason
Joker’s: Downtown Dave and the Deep Pockets
L&M Grand: DJ Coolz
Pochito’s: Steve Sibulkin
Raxx: DJ Mike

Kingston
The Kingston
1686 House Tavern
127 Main St., 642-3637
Rick’s on Mill Pond
92 Route 125., 642-3353

Laconia
Anthony’s Pier Restaurant
263 Lakeside Ave., 366-5855
Baja Beach Club @ China Bistro
89 Lake St., 524-0008
Broken Spoke Saloon
1072 Watson Rd, 366-5511
Cactus Jacks
1182 Union Ave., 528-7800
The Crazy Gringo
306 Lakeside Ave., 366-4411
Fratello’s
799 Union Ave., 528-2022
Margate Resort
76 Lake St., 524-5210
Naswa Resort
1086 Weirs Blvd., 366-4341
Paradise Beach Club
322 Lakeside Ave., 366-2665
Patio Garden Restaurant
Lakeside Ave.
Pitman’s Freight Room
94 New Salem St., 527-0043
Weirs Beach Lobster Pound
72 Endicott St., 366-2255
Weirs Beach Smokehouse
Rt 3 Laconia, 366-2400

Londonderry
Coach Stop Restaurant and Tavern
176 Mammoth Rd, 437-2022
Mayflower Grange
535 Mammoth Rd, 867-3077
Stumble Inn Bar & Grill
20 Rockingham Road
Whippersnappers
44 Nashua Road, 434-2660

Loudon
Graverobbers Coffeehouse
Loudon Congregational Church, 7018 Church St., 783-9478

Manchester
900 Degrees
50 Dow St., 641-0900
American Legion Wm H Jutras & Post No 43
56 Boutwell St., 623-9467
American Legion Post #79
35 W. Brook St.
American Legion Sweeney Post
251 Maple St., 623-9145
Black Brimmer
1087 Elm St., 669-5523
Bo’s Riverside
500 Commercial St., 625-4444
Boynton’s Taproom
155 Dow St., 623-7778
Breezeway Pub
14 Pearl St., 621-9111
City Sports Grille
216 Maple St., 625-9656
Club 313
93 S. Maple St., 628-6813

Shaskeen: Jack Grace
Starbucks: Lacey Rose and Michelle Skinner
Strange Brew: Mike Fioretti
Wild Rover: blues jam w/ Wan-Tu Blues Band

Meredith
Giuseppe’s: Paul Warnick

Merrimack
The Homestead: Charlie Christos

Milford
Chapanga’s: open mike w/ Driven

Delux
36 Lowell St., 644-1180
Derryfield Country Club
625 Mammoth Rd, 623-2880
Don Quijote
333 Valley St., 792-1110
Drynk
20 Old Granite St., 836-5251
Element Lounge
1055 Elm St., 627-2922
Fratello’s
155 Dow Street, 624-2022
Gaucht’s Churrascaria
62 Lowell St., 669-9460
Grand Nightclub & Lounge,
61 Canal St., 518.5547
Hanover St. Chophouse
149 Hanover St., 644-2467
Ignite Bar & Grille
100 Hanover St., 494-6225
Jam Factory
1211 Elm St., 203-1458
Jillian’s Billiard Club
50 Philippe Cote Drive, 626-7636
Johnny Bad’s
542 Elm St., 222-9191
Jokers
1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947
Lafayette Club
387 Canal St., 623-9323
Lazy Nick’s Coffee House
362 Huse Road, 232-7187
Luigi’s Pizza Bar & Grille
712 Valley St., 622-1021
Mad Bob’s Saloon
342 Lincoln St., 669-3049
McGarvey’s
1097 Elm St., 627-2721
Milly’s Tavern
500 Commercial St., 625-4444
Mulligan’s
424 Lake Ave., 623-6342
Murphy’s Taproom
494 Elm St., 644-3535
My Friend’s Bar and Grill
507 Maple St., 627-3444
NH Institute of Art
148 Concord St.
New England Revival Cof-fehouse
Calvary Fellowship Church, 60 Bailey Ave., 625-9550,
Olympic Lounge
506 Valley St., 644-5559
Piccola’s Upstairs Lounge
815 Elm St.
Penuche’s Grill
96 Hanover St., 626-9830
Pochito’s
33 S. Commercial St., 232-3054
Raxx Lounge
1195 Elm St.
Rocko’s Bar & Grill
253 Wilson St., 626-5866
Sam Adams Bar & Grill
Northeast Delta Dental Stadium, 1 Line Drive., 641-2005
The Shaskeen
909 Elm St., 625-0246
Starbucks
1111 S. Willow St., 641-4839
Strange Brew Tavern
88 Market St., 666-4292
Theos
102 Elm St., 669-4678
Unwine’d

Merrimack
The Homestead
641 DW Highway, 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Highway, 424-2280

Milford
American Legion
15 Cottage St., 673-9804
Chapanga’s
168 Elm St., 249-5214
J’s Tavern
63 Union Sq., 249-9222
The Pasta Loft
241 Union Sq., 672-2270
Madison’s Irish Pub
586 Nashua St.
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Road, 673-7123

Nashua
The Amber Room
53 High St., 881-9060
Backstage Bar and Grill
56 Canal St., 598-8256
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd., 595-2121
The Bounty
Holiday Inn, 9 Northeastern Blvd., 800-230-4134
Club Social
240 Main Dunstable Road. 889-9838
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St., 889-5871
Fat Daddy’s Cafe
650 Amherst St.
Fody’s Tavern
9 Clinton St., 577-9015
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall, 883-6662
Killarney’s Irish Pub
Holiday Inn, 888-1551
Lafayette Club
34 High St, 889-9860
Laureano Nightclub
245 Main St.
Martha’s Exchange
185 Main St., 883-8781
Michael Timothy’s
212 Main St., 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St., 886-7363
Old Amsterdam Bar
8 Temple St., 204-5501
The Peddler’s Daughter

Clark’s: DJ Randy Mailet
Pasta Loft: Rich and Bob

Nashua
Amber Room: DJ
Amsterdam: DJ
Fody’s: Josh Logan Band
Studio 99: Brasil jam

Newmarket
Stone Church: Fiddle-head and Blacklight Ruckus

Newton
Hen House Sports Bar & Grill: acoustic open

865 Second St., 625-9463
The Wild Rover
21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722
Workmen’s Club
183 Douglas St.
XO on Elm
827 Elm St., 206-5721
The Yard
1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545
Z Food and Drink
860 Elm St.

Meredith
Camp
300 DW Highway, 279-3003
Giuseppe’s Ristorante
312 DW Highway, 279-3313

Merrimack
The Homestead
641 DW Highway, 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Highway, 424-2280

Milford
American Legion
15 Cottage St., 673-9804
Chapanga’s
168 Elm St., 249-5214
J’s Tavern
63 Union Sq., 249-9222
The Pasta Loft
241 Union Sq., 672-2270
Madison’s Irish Pub
586 Nashua St.
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Road, 673-7123

Nashua
The Amber Room
53 High St., 881-9060
Backstage Bar and Grill
56 Canal St., 598-8256
Boston Billiard Club
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The Bounty
Holiday Inn, 9 Northeastern Blvd., 800-230-4134
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185 Main St., 883-8781
Michael Timothy’s
212 Main St., 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St., 886-7363
Old Amsterdam Bar
8 Temple St., 204-5501
The Peddler’s Daughter

mike w/ John Porazinski

Peterborough
Harlow’s Pub: bluegrass jam w/ JT

Portsmouth
Press Room: Seasmoke
Red Door: Local Heroes w/ Jack Blackwater
Rudi’s: Chris Burbank

Salem
Murray’s: blues jam w/ Steve Devine

48 Main St., 880-8686
Penuche’s Ale House
4 Canal St., 595-9831
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St., 886-3501
The Polish American Club
15 School St., 889-9819
Sausage King
53 Main St., 204-5110
Simple Gifts Coffee House
58 Lowell St.
603 Lounge
14 W. Hollis St., 821-5260
The Sky Lounge
522 Amherst St., 882-6026
Slade’s Food & Spirits
4 W. Hollis St., 886-1334
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St., 578-5557
Villa Banca
194 Main St., 598-0500

New Boston
Gravity Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd, 487-2011

Newmarket
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St., 659-3696
KJ’s Sports Bar
N. Main St., 659-2329
Stone Church
5 Granite St., 650-7700

Newton
Hen House Sports Bar & Grill
85 S. Main St., 382-1705

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St., 635-3577

Peterborough
Harlow’s Pub
3 School St., 924-6365
Peterborough Players Theater
Hadley Road

Plaistow
Corner Pocket
181 Plaistow Rd., 382-3130
Dugout Grille
93 Main St., 819-4947
The Sad Café
148 Plaistow Rd, 382-8893

Portsmouth
American Legion Post 6
96 Islington St.
Blue Mermaid Island Grill
hill at Hanover and High streets, 427-2583
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St.
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St., 431-5222
Fat Belly’s
2 Bow St. 610-4337
Gas Light Co.
64 Market St., 431-9122
The Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St., 431-1499
Jitto’s Supersteak
3131 Lafayette Rd, 436-9755
The Music Hall
104 Congress St., 433-3100
Paddy’s American Grill

Friday, Dec. 23
Allenstown
Ground Zero: A Night Like This, Iridescent, Emerson and Dreamer

Amherst
Souhegan Christian Church: open mike w/ Music at the Ledge

Belmont
The Lodge: Stripped

Concord
Green Martini: Kitchen
Makris: Barden Hill
Red Blazer: Bob French

27 International Dr., 430-9450
Players Ring Theater
105 Marcy St., 436-8123
Portsmouth Pearl
45 Pearl St., 431-0148,
Press Room
77 Daniel St., 431-5186
The Red Door
107 State St., 373-6827
Red Hook Brewery
35 Corporate Dr., 430-8600
Ri Ra Irish Pub
22 Market Square, 319-1680
Rudi’s
20 High St., 430-7834
Rusty Hammer
49 Pleasant St., 436-9289
The Wet Bar
172 Hanover St.

Raymond
Famous Legends Bar & Grill at Strikers East
4 Essex Drive
Freetown Yankee Market
58 Route 27, 895-3418

Salem
Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Road, 328-9013
Jocelyn’s Lounge
355 S. Broadway, 870-0045
Murray’s Tavern
326 S. Broadway, 894-9100
Sayde’s Restaurant
136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032
The Varsity Club
67 Main St., 898-4344

Seabrook
American Legion Post 70
169 Walton Road
Chop Shop Pub
920 Lafayette Rd, 474-6001
Honey Pot Bar & Lounge
920 Lafayette Rd, 760-2013
Master McGrath’s
Route 107, Seabrook, 474-6540
Prime Time Sports Grill
620 Lafayette Rd, 760-7230

Stratham
Acoustic Outfitters
72 Portsmouth Ave. 778-9711

Sunapee
One Mile West Tavern
6 Brook Road, 863-7500
Sunapee Coffee House
Methodist Church, Route 11

Tilton
Thirsty Crows
504 Laconia Road, 524-5558

Wilton
Pine Hill Auditorium
Pine Hill Waldorf School, 77 Pine Hill Dr.

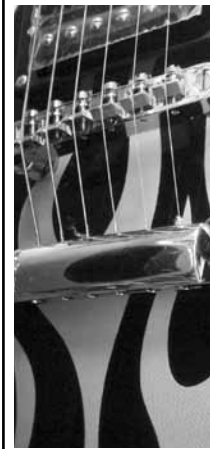
Windham
Jonathon’s Lounge
Park Place Lanes, Route 28, 800-892-0568

Tandy’s: DJ

Dover
Barley Pub: Mike Effen-berger, Russ Graham, Nick Phaneuf and Jim Rudolph
Brick House: Old Edi-son, Rev Todd Seely, The Murder Weapon, Yankee Cockfight
Kelley’s Row: Tim The-riault Trio
RJ’s: DJ Big Pez

Epping
Holy Grail: Karma

On the scene



Band members of the world, unite and take over

Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in the Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

... or you, with a club...

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeeshop frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if you regularly update your website or MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

... and if you are a music fan...

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

In the spotlight



Old Abode

New Hampshire-based band Old Abode celebrated the release of its debut album *Before the Day* in November. The four-member band has an indie rock sound created by non-traditional rock instruments — violin, mandolin and banjo — accompanied by electric guitar. *Before the Day* is available at Bull Moose music stores and through iTunes and other online outlets. The band will compete in the Pro Portsmouth Battle of the Bands at the Connie Bean Community Center in Portsmouth on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m.

In the spotlight



\$10 Sax at the Center

Saxophonist Charlie Jennison will perform at the New Hampshire Jazz Center at Pitman's Freight Room (nhjazz.com), 94 New Salem St., Laconia, on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 8 p.m. Jennison, a New Hampshire-based multi-instrumentalist, kicked off his jazz career in 1961 when he was only a junior in high school. He has shared the stage and has recorded with the likes of Tom Gallant, Dizzy Gillespie and Buddy DeFranco. Jennison will be joined on stage at the Jazz Center by his "Iridescence" Quartet with pianist Jim Butka, bassist John Hunter and drummer Ken Clark. Tickets cost \$10 at the door and the venue is BYOB.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Gramafoma

Newton

Hen House: DJ

Plaistow

The Dugout: DJ Boo

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Stephanie Hayward
Gaslight: DJ Koko P
Hilton Garden Inn: Todd, Royce and Morton
The Page: DJ
Red Door: Tom Bartlett and John Arnold
Press Room: Donkilo Afro Funk Orchestra

Rudi's: Duke

Salem

Black Water Grill: Rob Breton
Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook

Honey Pot: DJ

Saturday, Dec. 24

Manchester
Shaskeen: Irish sessions w/ Roger Burridge

Portsmouth

Red Door: Gary Kim

Sunday, Dec. 25

Dover
Barley Pub: Chris

Burbank

Brick House: DJ Erich Kruger

Newmarket

Stone Church: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Monday, Dec. 26

Candia
Henderson's Pickin' Parlor: electric rock open mike

Concord

Hermanos: John Franzosa
Red Blazer: open mike w/Matt Langley

Tupelo

It's All About the Music

MUSIC HALL®

NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE



Wednesday, December 28
8:00 p.m. • \$25 • GA

BEATLEJUICE



Friday, January 6
8:00 p.m. • \$25 • RS-Theater

LIZ LONGLEY

Air Traffic Controller Opens



Saturday, Jan. 7
8:00 p.m.
\$20
RS-Theater

LAURENCE JUBER



Thursday, Jan. 12
8:00 p.m.
\$20
RS-Tables

GANDALF MURPHY & the Slambolian Circus of Dreams



Friday, January 13
8:00 p.m. • \$25 • RS-Tables

PETER YARROW



Saturday, Jan. 14
8:00 p.m.
\$40
RS-Theater

POCO



Sunday, Jan. 15
7:00 p.m.
\$45
RS-Theater

RYAN MONTBLEAU

With Full Band



Saturday, January 21
8:00 p.m. • \$22 • GA

LORI McKENNA

Mark Erelli Opens



Sunday, Jan. 22
7:00 p.m.
\$25
RS-Theater

ADAM EZRA GROUP



Saturday, February 4
8:00 p.m. • \$15 • GA

DEBBIE DAVIES



Friday, Feb. 10
8:00 p.m.
\$20
RS-Tables

COMMANDER CODY



Sunday, Feb. 12
7:00 p.m.
\$25
RS-Theater

SUZANNE VEGA



Thursday, Feb. 16
8:00 p.m.
\$45
RS-Theater

JOHN MAYALL



Friday, Feb. 24
8:00 p.m.
\$45
RS-Theater

2 Young Road • Londonderry, NH

Full Schedules and Tickets: TupeloHall.com



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NITE			
Dover Castaway's Boathouse: Denis Patrick's Merry Pranksters' open mike Orchard Street Chop Shop: open mike w/ Dave Ogden	Manchester Fratello's: Lachlan Maclearn Milly's: Dom and Reid of Manchuka Rocko's: Always and Forever	Merrimack The Homestead: Char- lie Christos Milford J's Tavern: acoustic open mike	Tuesday, Dec. 27 Concord Barley House: Irish sessions Hermanos: John Fran- zosa Tandy's: open mike w/ Calvin McFarlin
Hampton La Bec Rouge: open mike w/ Elijah Clark Wally's Pub: DJ	Meredith Camp: acoustic open mike w/ Linden Mazurka Giuseppe's: Lou Por- razzo	Nashua Studio 99: ukelele club Portsmouth Press Room: Mike Stockbridge Combo	Dover Brick House: acoustic open mike w/ Anthony Vito Fiandaca RJ's: DJ
Londonderry Whippersnappers: open mike			

CONCERTS

Venues Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org	Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Rd., Francestown Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St.,	Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436.2848 Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com Whittmore Center Arena UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, www.whittcenter.com
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycled Percussion Wed., Dec. 28, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey• New Riders of The Purple Sage Wed., Dec. 28, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Recycled Percussion Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m., Colonial• Recycled Percussion Fri., Dec. 30, at 8 p.m., Palace• Dueling Pianos Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Boynton's• Recycled Percussion Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Palace• Beatlejuice Fri., Jan. 6, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Big Bad Voodoo Daddy Fri., Jan. 6, at 8 p.m., Cap Center• Liz Longley Sat., Jan. 7, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Dueling Pianos Sat., Jan. 7, at 8 p.m., Boynton's• Little Feat Sun., Jan. 8, at 8:30 p.m., Tupelo• Debbie Davies Band Tues., Jan. 10, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Laurence Juber Thurs., Jan. 12, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Gandalf Murphy & the Slambovian Circus of Dreams Fri., Jan. 13, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Peter Yarrow Sat., Jan. 14, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Dueling Pianos Sat., Jan. 14, at 8 p.m., Boynton's• Moment in Time: A Tribute to Paul Whiteman Sun., Jan. 15, at 4 p.m., Cap Center• Poco Sun., Jan. 15, at 7 p.m., Tupelo• Marc Cohn Thurs., Jan. 19, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Darlingside Thurs, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m., Cap Center• Johnny Winter with Willie J Laws Sat., Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m.• Dueling Pianos Sat., Jan. 21, at 8 p.m., Boynton's• Lori McKenna Sun., Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., Tupelo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Evening with 1964: The Tribute Sun., Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., Palace• Carolina Chocolate Drops Thurs., Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m., Music Hall• The Peacheaters: An Allman Brothers Experience w/ Brasbe Sat., Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey• Dueling Pianos Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m., Boynton's• Evan Goodrow Band Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Charles Bradley and his Extraordinaires Fri., Feb. 3, at 8 p.m., Music Hall• Adam Ezra Group Sat., Feb. 4, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder Sat., Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m.• Dueling Pianos Sat., Feb. 4, at 8 p.m., Boynton's• Noteable Decades Fri., Feb. 10, at 8 p.m., Cap Center• Deadphish Sat., Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey• Dueling Pianos Sat., Feb. 11, at 8 p.m., Boynton's• Commander Cody Sun., Feb. 12, at 7 p.m., Tupelo• Suzanne Vega Wed., Feb. 16, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Jonny Lang Thurs., Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m., Music Hall• Carbon Leaf Fri., Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey• Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers Fri., Feb. 17, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Cheryl Wheeler Sat., Feb. 18, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Solas Thurs., Feb. 23, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Dianne Reeves Thurs., Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m., Colonial• Acoustic Hot Tuna Fri., Feb. 24, at 8 p.m., Colonial• The Temptations Fri., Feb. 24,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">at 8 p.m., Music Hall• John Mayall Fri., Feb. 24, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Molly Hatchet with Citizens Band Radio Sat., Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m.• Jill Sobule Sat., Feb. 25, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Greg Greenway Fri., March 2, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Klasik Kiss with Van Halen Tribute Band "Balance" Sat., March 3, at 7:30 p.m.• Melanie Sat., March 10, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Loretta LaRoche Sat. March 10, at 8 p.m., Palace• Danu Sun., March 11, at 4 p.m., Cap Center• Enter the Haggis Sun., March 11, at 7 p.m., Tupelo• Jefferson Starship Fri., March 16, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• The Makem and Spain Brothers Sat., March 17, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Sarah Jarosz Mon., March 19, 8 p.m., Tupelo• Phil Vasser Thurs., March 22, at 8 p.m., Lowell Auditorium• Get The Led Out Fri., March 23, at 8 p.m., Music Hall• Karla Bonoff Sat., March 24, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Willy Porter Sun., March 25, at 7 p.m.• Gary Mullen and the Works: One Night of Queen Thurs., March 29, at 7:30 p.m., Cap Center• James Hunter Fri., March 30, at 8 p.m.• NRBQ Fri., April 6, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Johnny Winter Sat., April 7, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks Mon., April 9, at 8 p.m., Tupelo• Struntz and Farah Thurs., April 12, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

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An Allman Brothers Experience • BRASBE Opening!
Sat, Jan 28

RICKY SKAGGS
With Kentucky Thunder • Country Hits Bluegrass Style
Sat, Feb 4

DEADPHISH
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Sat, Feb 11

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Sat, Feb 18

MOLLY HATCHET
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Sat, Feb 25

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Sat, Mar 3

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Thur, Apr 12

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NITE

In the spotlight



Ground Zero concert

A Night Like This will take the stage with The Iridescent, Emerson and Dreamer at Ground Zero, 48 Allenstown Road, Allenstown, on Friday, Dec. 23, at 8 p.m. The Hudson-based band fuses pop-punk and post-hardcore and counts Four Year Strong, A Day to Remember and The Wedding among their its influences. Band members Andrew Belliveau, Mike Linehan, Breton Jagers, Jon Mersereau and Dan O'Brien have shared the stage with such band as Last Valour, As Time Will Tell, She Has Fallen and Long Shot. Tickets for the all-ages show cost \$10 in advance at groundzzzero.com (\$12 at the door).

In the spotlight



Last laughs of the year

The Holy Grail, 64 Main St. in Epping, www.theholylgrailpub.com, 679-3553, will host comedians Dave Andrews (pictured) and Jimmy "PJ" Walsh on Friday, Dec. 30, at 8 p.m. Tickets for this "Day Before New Year's Eve" show cost \$15 each (or \$25 for two people) and can be purchased in advance at the Holy Grail. Andrews is a regular at Caesar's Resorts in Atlantic City and Las Vegas. Wash is a Boston-based comic who has hosted the Boston leg of "Next Big Comedy Star Search," according to a press release.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Scot Gibbs and the Usual Suspects

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: acoustic open mike w/ Mike Belkas

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Baked Naked, Liquid Courage

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: video DJ

Manchester

Fratello's: Sev
Milly's: Manchuka
Murphy's: open mike w/Josh Logan, Nate Comp and Paul Costley
Raxx: DJ Mike
Strange Brew: Strange Brew All Stars

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois

Merrimack

The Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford

J's Tavern: G Man from Mama Kicks

Nashua

Fody's: DJ Mark Allen

Newmarket

Stone Church: bluegrass jam w/ Dave Talmage

Portsmouth

Press Room: jazz jam w/ Larry Garland, hoot open mike w/ Chad Verbeck

Seabrook

Honey Pot: open mike

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Antrim

Redneck's: open mike w/ the Boogiemen

Auburn

Holiday's: DJ Captain Chris

Boscawen

Alan's: open mike

Concord

Hermanos: Rob Wolfe
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Barley Pub: Gumbo Diabolo
Fury's: open mike w/ Paul Chase
Three Chimney's Inn: open mike

Gilford

Patrick's: Tim Theriault

Hampton

La Bec Rouge: DJ Kelly Elliott
Wally's Pub: DJ

Kingston

The Carriage Towne Bar & Grille: Mike Belkas

Manchester

Black Brimmer: Manchuka
Fratello's: Gardner Berry

Joker's: Sidecar

Penuche's: open mike w/ Friday After Five
Strange Brew: Lex and Joe

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Justin Jaymes

Merrimack

The Homestead: Chris Lester

Milford

Clark's: open mike
J's Tavern: Lisa from Mama Kicks
Pasta Loft: open mike

Nashua

603 Lounge: open mike w/ Kevin Horan
Off the Wall Lounge: open mike
Peddlers Daughter: Revels Glen
Sausage King: open mike w/ John Borlaug

Studio 99: blues jam

Newmarket

Stone Church: Charlie Strater

Peterborough

Harlow's Pub: open mike

Plaistow

Sad Cafe: Break My Fall, Airhorn Gizmo, I Shot Irene, Cody Care, Long Past Due

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: open mike w/ Tom Brown and Duke Mandell
Press Room: Matt Shipman
Red Door: Red on Red w/ Evaredy
Rudi's: Dimitri

Salem

Murray's: acoustic open mike

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Saturday, Dec. 24

Manchester
Jokers: comedy night

Monday, Dec. 26

Concord
Penuche's: live standup
Tuesday, Dec. 27
Manchester
Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Manchester
Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua

Penuche's: live standup

Thursday, Dec. 29

Nashua
Fody's: Alana Susko

Friday, Dec. 30

Epping
Holy Grail: Dave Andrews, Jimmy "PJ" Walsh

Saturday, Dec. 31

Manchester
Headliners: Rob Steen, Robbie Printz and Jody Sloane
Jokers: comedy night

Portsmouth

Sheraton: Kelly Mac-

Farland, Kyle Crawford,

Mike Koutrobis and Steve Scarfo

Monday, Jan. 2

Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, Jan. 3

Manchester
Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, Jan. 4

Manchester
Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua

Penuche's: live standup

Saturday, Jan. 7

Manchester
Jokers: Rob Steen

Monday, Jan. 9

Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Manchester
Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, Jan. 11

Manchester
Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua

Penuche's: live standup

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Across

- 1 Air kiss noise
5 Invoice no.
8 Flash a quick smile to
14 Hawaii's "Valley Isle"
15 ____ Tzu
16 Bela in old horror movies
17 They may get patronized
18 Prefix before -mance
19 Head of a bowling group

- 20 Phrase telling off a blood-sucking bug?
23 They stop the band to sing "Leonard Bernstein"
24 Letters on aircraft carriers
25 Stimp'y's amigo
26 Lean-____ (makeshift shelters)
27 Montana neighbor
29 Donkey Kong, for one
31 "seaQuest ____" (1990s sci-fi TV series)
32 Turn a different way?

- 34 "Pardon," in Parma
37 Punish-ment of having to wear a paper sign on your back?
41 Org. with a common interest
42 Puts up
44 Obnoxious person
46 "____ died

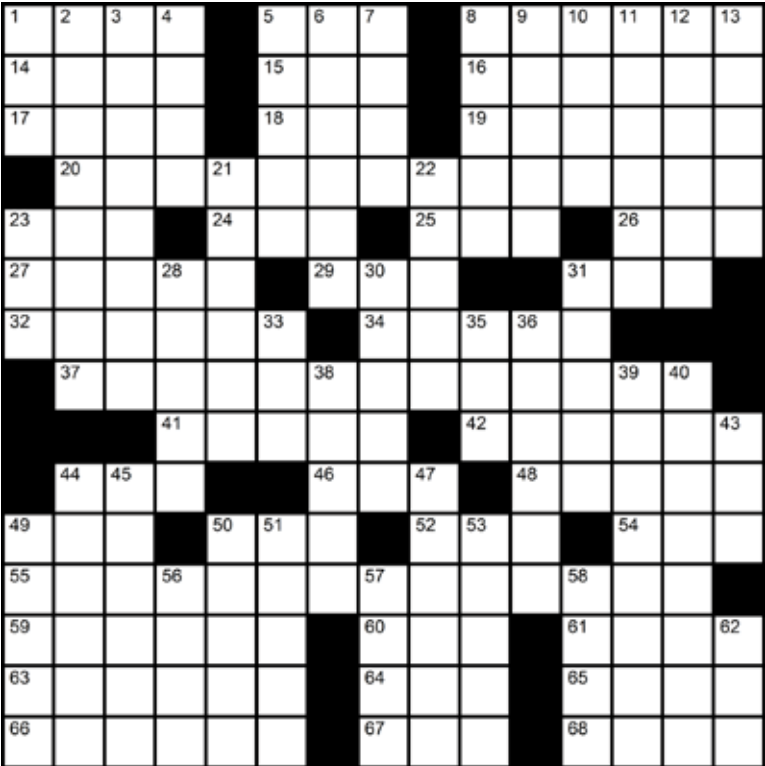
- and made you king?"
48 "It's ____!" ("Easy!")
49 Toward the stern
50 Wilberforce University's affiliated denom.
52 Back-to-school mo.
54 ____ Khan
55 Time-sensitive demand on a dirty car?
59 "Here We Go Again" singer Demi
60 Dust cloth
61 Bring in
63 It's hardly four-part harmony
64 100%
65 Length times width
66 Takes the helm
67 Sault ____ Marie, Mich.
68 Word used in telling time

Down

- 1 UFC fighting style
2 Got the audience started
3 Add machines and conveyer belts
4 Rattler's noise
5 Professor Dumbledore's first name
6 Actress Tomei
7 Make steam whistle noises
8 Ball in a classroom
9 Unpleasant interaction
10 "____ that a lot"
11 Stipulation of some leases
12 "The Solar System and Back" author Isaac
13 Fork poker
21 Minimum goals to be met

- 22 Hoover competitor
23 Crater edge
28 Tennis star Mandlikova and namesakes
30 "You thought I'd give it to you, didn't you?"
31 Dutch blockers
33 Golf pro Ernie
35 Midstreet maneuver
36 Cancels
38 Record store whose physical locations closed in 2006
39 Former Secretary of Defense Robert
40 Shelves for knickknacks
43 Place for cardio and detox
44 Put on ____ (be phony)
45 Wonder or Nicks
47 Actor and stand-up comic Patton
49 Great grade
50 Early tycoon John Jacob ____
51 Atomic particles
53 Two under par, on a golf hole
56 Enclosure inside an enclosure, for short
57 Bullpen numbers
58 Pile of laundry
62 The Naked Brothers Band singer Wolff

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All quotes are from *New Moon*, by Stephenie Meyer, born Dec. 24, 1973.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) Edward didn't seem to understand why ... it made me uncomfortable if he took me to an expensive restaurant in Seattle, why he wasn't allowed to buy me a car that could reach speeds over fifty-five miles an hour, or why I wouldn't let him pay my college tuition.... Cue the violins.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) Though I respected the need for maintaining a safe distance between my skin and his razor-sharp, venom-coated teeth, I tended to forget about trivial things like that when he was kissing me. Keep relationship hazards in mind, you lust lizard.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) 'No! This is about my soul, isn't it?' I shouted, furious, the words exploding out of me... 'You can have my soul. I don't want it without you — it's yours already!' You need to work on boundaries.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) I'd cried myself to sleep over this boy. His harsh rejection had punched a painful new hole in what was left of my chest. He'd left a new nightmare behind him, like an infection in a sore—the insult after the injury. And now he was here in my room, smirking... If someone keeps smirking at you, is he really your friend?

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) Even in the dark, he must be able to see the

change in the color of my face. How could I ever forget that? Without realizing what he was doing, Jacob had told me exactly what I needed to know that day—that Edward was a vampire. Find out what you need to know.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) It was spring break in Forks again. When I woke up on Monday morning, I lay in bed for a few seconds absorbing that. Last spring break, I'd been hunted by a vampire, too. I hoped this wasn't some kind of tradition forming. Make sure the traditions you start are good ones.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) The heavy, warm pressure of the atmosphere was perceptible even to my weak human senses, and it hinted at something major in the storm department. Watch out for something major in the storm department.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) 'What's the story?' I asked, genuinely curious, but also trying desperately to keep the conversation casual, to keep a firm grip on myself, so I wouldn't scare him away with the frantic, gnawing craving that was raging inside me. Keep a stash of snacks to ward off frantic gnawing cravings.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) And I was comforted. Who cared what I had to deal with later? Every second that he was here—so close, his flawless face glowing in the dim light from the numbers on my alarm clock—was precious and not to be wasted. You'd be

surprised what you can see in the dim light from an alarm clock.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) My dad was not a man of many words, and the effort he had put into trying to orchestrate a sit-down dinner with me made it clear there were an uncharacteristic number of words on his mind. An uncharacteristic number of words will

have to do.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) It just wasn't something I could work out with him in a note ... But my plan to deal with the werewolf in person had definitely not gone over well with the vampires. You can help maintain truce between conflicting parties.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) 'Be

SIGNS OF LIFE

serious, Edward. Dartmouth?' Edward lifted the discarded application and laid it gently in front of me again. 'I think you'd like New Hampshire,' he said. 'There's a full complement of night courses for me, and the forests are very conveniently located for the avid hiker. Plentiful wildlife.' New Hampshire has its advantages.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		4		6				
	7					1		
6			4	3			2	
		8						
2		9		1		6		3
						7		
	1			5	6			7
		3					4	
				8		5		

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/22

SU DO KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

12/15

5	4	6	3	8	9	7	1	2
2	3	7	4	6	1	5	8	9
8	9	1	5	7	2	3	6	4
9	8	5	6	4	7	1	2	3
1	2	3	8	9	5	6	4	7
7	6	4	1	2	3	9	5	8
4	7	8	9	5	6	2	3	1
6	1	2	7	3	8	4	9	5
3	5	9	2	1	4	8	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/15

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User's guide to The Hippo

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Press releases

Send press releases (that include time, dates and location of the event plus contact information for the public and, if different, contact information for our reporters) to news@hippopress.com.

That is a general mail box. To reach reporters with specific sections of the paper:

- **Arts** — Send information on exhibits, theatrical productions, classical music events, art and theater classes and auditions to Adam Coughlin at arts@hippopress.com. You can also reach him by phone at 625-1855 ext. 12.
- **Books** — Send information on book-related events (including author events, book clubs, poetry events and more) to Books Editor Lisa Parsons at lparsons@hippopress.com. Books submitted for review will not be returned. Books can be submitted for review or mention to Lisa Parsons, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH, 03104. Books submitted will be considered for review but are not guaranteed review or mention.
- **Food** — Send information about new restaurants, new menus, new chefs, chef and restaurant awards, food events, wine tastings, beer and wine making, cook-offs and other food competitions to food@hippopress.com
- **Listings** — Send information on events and classes for kids, continuing education for adults, fitness and health classes and events, local museum events and exhibits, volunteer needs and more to listings@hippopress.com. Please send information intended for listings section at least two weeks before the publication date (Hippo publishes every Thursday) before the event. Please note that due to space constraints, not all listings run every week.
- **Music** — Send information on upcoming live music performances, bands, new CD releases, comedy nights, DJs and karaoke nights, nightlife events and concert series to music@hippopress.com.
- **News** — Send information about new businesses, political events and other items intended for the news section to jmucciarone@hippopress.com. You can also reach him at 625-1855 ext. 36.

Not sure who to send it to? You can also contact editor Amy Diaz at adiaz@hippopress.com or call 625-1855 ext. 29.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to the editor to news@hippopress.com. Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters will be edited for size and will appear in our occasional comments section.

General submissions

The Hippo does not accept unsolicited articles, photos, illustrations or guest columns for publication. Submissions will not be returned or acknowledged.

Display advertisements

Contact Charlene Cesarini at 625-1855 ext. 26 or at ccesarini@hippopress.com or Jody Reese at 625-1855 ext. 21 or at jreese@hippopress.com for information on placing a display advertisement.

Deadline for display ads

The space reservation deadline is Monday at noon. The ad materials deadline is Monday at 3 p.m. Contact your ad rep or Charlene Cesarini for more information.

Line classified ads

Contact our classified ad department at classifieds@hippopress.com or 625-1855 ext. 25. The deadline for classifieds is Monday at noon.

Only the Government

Stung by criticism in 2007 that they were neglecting severely wounded service members, the Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs have now gone extreme the other way, routinely providing at least a half-dozen (and as many as two dozen) caseworkers per patient. A Government Accountability Office report in October said the result was “duplication, confusion and turf battles,” according to a November Washington Post story, leaving the members and their families often conflicted and overwhelmed about prognoses. At times the Pentagon (serving active-duty personnel) and the VA (ex-military) balked over coordinating their treatments. The agencies, however, told the Post that any duplication was intentional, even though the Post cited military families who each wished they had a single, authoritative case manager they could turn to. A GAO official called the situation “crazy” and “disturbing.”

Can't Possibly Be True

• The U.S.-Pakistan relationship has reached “the nadir of absurdity,” wrote Wired.com, after a December report in The Atlantic revealed that Pakistan “secures” its tactical nuclear weapons by moving them around the country in ordinary unmarked vans (“without noticeable defenses”). It supposedly uses the “Econolines of Doom,” “hidden” in plain sight on the country’s highways, because it fears the U.S. (its “ally”) would steal the bombs if it knew where they were. Dizzily, wrote Wired, the U.S. funds Pakistan yet regularly invades it, though desperately needing Pakistan’s help in Afghanistan, even as Pakistani soldiers fight alongside Afghan insurgents against the U.S.

• In October, the super-enthusiastic winners of a Kingston, Ontario, radio station contest claimed their prize: the chance to don gloves and dig for free Buffalo Bills’ football tickets (value: \$320), buried in buffalo manure in a child’s plastic inflatable pool. The show’s host, Sarah Crosbie, reported the digging live (but, overcome by the smell, vomited on the air). More curious was a runner-up contestant who continued to muck around for the second prize, even though it was only tickets to a local zoo.

• In a federal lawsuit for malicious prosecution, a judge found a “strong” likelihood that EPA agent Keith Phillips “deliberately” set up a hazardous-waste enforcement case against Hubert Vidrine for the purpose of facilitating his own work/sex relationship with a female EPA agent. According to the court, Phillips was married and unable to carry on with the agent (stationed in another city) except when they worked together, which they did periodically over a three-year period on the Vidrine case. In October, Vidrine was awarded \$1.6 million in damages.

• Least Competent Plans: (1) L.B. Williams, a black man married to a white woman in Panama City, Fla., reported that the Ku Klux Klan had burned a cross in his driveway in November and left a threatening note. However, the note did not demand that the couple move from the neighborhood; it demanded that they stay. Since the Klan is not known for supporting mixed-race couples, the police were suspicious and ultimately charged Williams with making the threats himself — to frighten his wife into abandoning the divorce she had recently requested. (2) Paul Moran, possessing (according to his lawyer) “considerable intellectual ability,” nonetheless attempted a procedure to

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

turn his own feces into gold (and was sentenced in October to three months in jail in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, after accidentally setting his apartment on fire in the process).

Fine Points of the Law

• Proportionality: (1) Daniel Vilca, 26, was ordered to prison for the rest of his life (without possibility of parole) following his conviction in Naples, Fla., in November for having pornographic photos of children on his computer. He had no previous criminal record, nor was there evidence of any contact with children. The judge computed the sentence by multiplying a five-year term by the 454 photos police found. (2) A week earlier, a judge in Dayton, Ohio, sentenced former CEO Michael Peppel, 44, for defrauding his shareholders by overstating revenue in a company that went on to lose \$298 million and cost 1,300 employees their jobs. Sentencing guidelines recommended an 8- to 10-year term, but federal judge Sandra Beckwith ordered Peppel to jail for seven days.

• Dog walker Kimberly Zakrzewski was found not guilty in October of violating the poop-scooping ordinance of Fairfax County, Va., despite photographic “evidence” of dog piles submitted by neighbors Virginia and Christine Cornell (who had previously been feuding with Zakrzewski). The jury chose to give greater weight to testimony by the dog’s owner that the photographed piles were bigger than anything she had ever seen from “Baxter.” The owner also revealed that she had brought to court one of Baxter’s actual piles but decided to leave it in her car.

Oops! Sorry About That ...

Bad Shots: (1) A 22-year-old man was shot in the face on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in September; his companion on the camping trip thought he was shooting at a bear. (2) An 85-year-old man was shot in the face in Augusta, Ga., in September; a female acquaintance thought she was shooting at an opossum. (3) A 20-year-old woman was shot in Vilas County, Wis., in July; deputy sheriff Ty Peterson (a relative) thought he

was shooting at a cougar.

Crime in the F State

(1) Two men outfitted as zombies were arrested for assault at a Halloween party at a nudist resort in Pasco County, Fla. (One bit a security guard, but he was not infected.) (2) Jeffrey Lluís, 27, who performed stand-up comedy at clubs around Tampa, apparently held a day job as bank robber (charged in November with knocking off a SunTrust bank — twice).

Undignified Deaths

Thinning the Herd: (1) In October, a 30-year-old woman and her unidentified boyfriend were killed as they carried their domestic brawl from their car onto Interstate 485 near Pineville, N.C., and were struck by separate vehicles. (2) A 27-year-old man was killed in a one-car crash in Broward County, Fla., in October. He (a passenger) had punched his wife (the driver) in the face, causing her to lose control and careen into a lake. (She and the couple’s 3-year-old daughter, in the backseat, survived.)

A News of the Weird Classic (July 2007)

John Moore, 67, golfs nearly every day and has for about 20 years, according to a July (2007) St. Petersburg Times report. The golf he plays, though, consists of hitting 35 long-iron shots (five shots with each of the seven balls he owns) on a grassy median strip along Interstate 275 in downtown Tampa. “You can’t play this game one day, two days in a week,” he said. “You have to play it all the time if you want to do something with it.” What Moore wants to do with it, he told the Times, is to someday soon make his first-ever appearance on an actual golf course.

Are you ready for News of the Weird Pro Edition? Every Monday at <http://NewsoftheWeird.blogspot.com> and www.WeirdUniverse.net. Other handy addresses: WeirdNews@earthlink.net, www.NewsoftheWeird.com, and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679.)

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2011
AN ADMITTEDLY INCOMPLETE AND UTTERLY SUBJECTIVE YEAR IN REVIEW
PART THE FIRST

MONTH OF JANUARY: SENSITIVE, CARING REPUBLICANS TRY TO REDEFINE RAPE. IT DOESN'T COUNT UNLESS IT WAS **FORCIBLE!**
OTHERWISE YOU WERE ASKING FOR IT.

JAN. 8: REP. GIFFORDS SHOT, SIX OTHERS KILLED; USUAL GUN NUT CRAP COMMENCES.
GUN OWNERS ARE THE **REAL** VICTIMS TODAY!

JAN. 10: SOON-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN CRAZY PERSON GLENN BECK URGES SOON-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN SELF PROMOTER SARAH PALIN TO HIRE MORE SECURITY BECAUSE--
"--AN ATTEMPT ON YOUR COULD BRING THE REPUBLIC DOWN!"

FEBRUARY: SOUTH DAKOTA LAWMAKERS CONSIDER BILL JUSTIFYING HOMICIDE IN DEFENSE OF A FETUS. WE CALL IT THE "OPEN SEASON ON ABORTION DOGS" ACT!
HAPPY HUNTING!
(BILL IS LATER WITHDRAWN)

ALSO: HEAVY SNOWSTORMS GENERATE PREDICTABLE RESPONSE FROM RIGHT WING IGNORAMUSES. WHERE'S YOUR GLOBAL WARMING NOW AL GORE?
HAW HAW HAW

AND: AS EGYPTIANS OVERTHROW MUBARAK, AMERICANS CHEER FOR DEMOCRACY! IT'S SO **INSPIRING** WHEN ONE OF OUR CLIENT DICTATORS IS TOPPLED!

FEB. 7: VERY SERIOUS DEFICIT COMMISSION CO-CHAIR ALAN SIMPSON CALLS SOCIAL SECURITY--
"--A MILK COW WITH 300 MILLION **TEATS!**"

MAR. 7: ALAN SIMPSON COMPLAINS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE "WALKING ON THEIR PANTS WITH THE CAP ON BACKWARDS LISTENING TO THE ENEMY MAN AND SNOOPY POOP DOGG!"

APRIL: G.O.P FIGHTS TO ELIMINATE GOVT FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING. CONDOMS ARE JUST A SNEAKY WAY OF HAVING A **VERY** EARLY TERM ABORTION!

ALSO: DONALD TRUMP STAKES HIS SHORT-LIVED PRESIDENTIAL HOPES ON OBAMA'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE. I THINK THERE ARE **SERIOUS QUESTIONS--**
AHEM.

APR. 2: COMPANY THAT OPERATED DEEPWATER HORIZON AWARDS EXECS SAFETY BONUSES. IF YOU IGNORE THAT **ONE LITTLE ACCIDENT--**
"--WE HAD A **GREAT** YEAR IN 2010!"

MAY 1: BIN LADEN KILLED. OBAMA DECLARES "WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE SET OUR MIND TO." AS LONG AS WHAT WE SET OUR MIND TO IS KILLING **SOMEBODY**. FIXING THE ECONOMY, NOT SO MUCH.

MAY 26: SENATORS WYDEN & UDALL SEEM TO BE TRYING TO WARN US ABOUT SOMETHING. IF YOU KNEW WHAT **WE** KNOW ABOUT THE PATRIOT ACT--
"--YOU'D POOP YOUR PANTS!"
+SLIGHT PARAPHRASE.

MAY 26: OBAMA NONE-THELESS SIGNS FOUR YEAR EXTENSION OF SAID ACT. OH WELL! WE WEREN'T USING THOSE CIVIL LIBERTIES **ANYWAY!**

JUNE 16: ANDREW BREITBART ACQUIRES PICS OF ANTHONY WEINER'S PENIS; WORLD'S STUPIDEST SCANDAL ENSUES. I CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE IDENTITY OF THAT PENIS.
NEXT WEEK: MORE CRAZY!

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